

Yemen's advance union date

AMMAN (AP) — The leaders of Yemen and South Yemen have advanced the date to May 26, scrapping interim steps, officials reported Wednesday. The May 26 proclamation would move unification to September. The agreement now includes the approval of a constitution and a date for the union, and the sources who spoke on condition of anonymity said the date was intended to frustrate growing opposition by both sides to the union. Islamic fundamentalists in the south are particularly opposed to the future likely alliance of the two Marxist states, which they see as a threat to their religious beliefs. Objectives in the north are apprehensive about the likely union of the two Marxist states, at their expense. North Yemen's President Ali Salim Al Beidi and South Yemen's leader Ali Salam Al Beidi, the former general of the latter, Yemeni Socialist Party, are moving "in opposite directions," said a Western diplomat in Sanaa. "They have discussed almost every option," added the diplomat.

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Belgian deputy arrives in Amman

AMMAN (Petra) — The chairman of the foreign affairs committee of the Belgian House of representatives arrived Wednesday on a two-day visit to Jordan during which he will meet a number of officials and his Jordanian counterpart. The Belgian deputy was received in the airport by Deputy Husni Al-Shayyal and the Belgian ambassador to Jordan.

Officers protest Sudan executions

CAIRO (R) — A group of officers has submitted a note to Sudan's military ruler protesting against the execution of 28 officers six days ago for their alleged role in a swiftly crushed coup attempt, diplomats said Wednesday. The note, delivered earlier this week, was the first sign of dissent within the Sudanese military over the executions, which an Arab human rights group said were carried out following trials before emergency military tribunals lasting only two hours. Sudan has denied such a note was ever submitted. Police Monday used tear-gas and whips to disperse a demonstration by women relatives of the 28 executed officers, according to diplomats and witnesses. They said police dispersed smaller street protests also on Monday in Khartoum and in its twin city of Omdurman. There were no injuries or arrests made, they added.

Algerian parties form alliance

ALGIERS (R) — Five centrist opposition parties in Algeria have formed an alliance to oppose each other during the country's first free elections set for June, party officials said Wednesday. Abderrahmane Adjid, president of the Social-Democratic Party (PDS), told Algerian radio the five parties would "work for the same political, economic and social orientations" and others were welcome to join. Adjid said the centrist alliance was formed Tuesday by his branch of the PDS, the National Party for Solidarity and Development (PNSD), the Social Liberal Party, the National Renewal Front and the Popular Association for Unity and Action.

Najibullah lifts state of emergency

ISLAMABAD (R) — Afghan President Najibullah has ordered that a state of emergency giving special powers to his government will be lifted Friday, Kabul Radio said Wednesday. The broadcast said this would restore to parliament the powers delegated to the cabinet after the withdrawal of Soviet forces in February 1989.

Bulgaria, Israel to restore ties

SOFIA (AP) — Diplomatic relations between Israel and Bulgaria are to be restored Thursday, the state news agency BTA reported only hours after Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens arrived for this purpose Wednesday. "We have been waiting for this moment for 23 years, which is a very long time," Arens told reporters upon arrival at Sofia airport.

Ferries fired on off Beirut coast

BEIRUT (AP) — Christian forces vying for dominance of the enclave north of Beirut fired at passenger ships serving ports controlled by the rival factions Wednesday amid renewed artillery exchanges. Police said neither the Cypriot ferry Sunny Boat, nor the Lebanese ship Virgin Butterfly was hit. Police said troops loyal to Michel Aoun fired a dozen howitzer shells at the Jounieh port, 20 kilometres north of Beirut in the early morning. They said the Sunny Boat which runs between the Cypriot port of Larnaca and Jounieh, controlled by militiamen of the Lebanese Forces, had docked at the harbour shortly before the barrage and was waiting for passengers to board for the return voyage. But when the first shells crashed in the water around it, the ferry boat quickly sailed out to international waters and later headed empty for Larnaca.

King meets patriarch, reiterates commitment to protecting holy places

Jordan reaffirms Jerusalem pledge

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Writer

and we have been steadily resisting all such moves," the King told Patriarch Diodoros.

AMMAN — Jordan Wednesday reaffirmed its commitment to protecting religious holy places in occupied Jerusalem and paid tribute to the resistance of the Greek Orthodox patriarch in the Holy City against Israeli moves in the Christian quarter of the Old City.

"I reaffirm that our deep concern over the Christian holy places in Jerusalem is a matter of principle, and we place the sanctity of the shrines above all political considerations," His Majesty King Hussein was quoted as saying in a meeting with Greek Orthodox Patriarch of Jerusalem Diodoros I.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, also quoted the King as paying tribute to the patriarch's courageous stand and steadfastness in the face of the Israeli occupation authorities, and reaffirming Jordan's "commitment to the Muslim-Christian pact concluded under the reign of Omar Ben Al Khatab."

The most important element of the agreement, made in the seventh century, is a commitment to safeguarding and defending the freedom of worship and liberate the Holy Land from Israeli occupation."

The theme of inter-faith unity was also the focus of remarks made by the patriarch in an interview with the Jordan Times Tuesday.

(Continued on page 4)

Mubarak, Assad meet; Iraq-Syria media hits halt

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer with agency dispatches

DAMASCUS — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, on a groundbreaking visit to Syria and Syrian President Hafez Al Assad held Wednesday on issues believed to include Soviet Jewish immigration to Israel and prospects for Syrian-Iraqi reconciliation.

The Egyptian leader flew to Damascus, reports from Baghdad said that Palestinian leader Yasir Arafat had managed to bring about a decision by Iraq and Syria to call a truce in their media attacks against each other. There were also signs that both were living up to the decision.

Arab League Secretary General Chadi Khuri arrived in the Iraqi capital, which has offered to host an extraordinary Arab summit to discuss the most pressing issues facing the Arab World, and his talks there were expected to focus on prospects for convening the summit, which hinges on the outcome of Mubarak's talks with Assad.

A large crowd gathered at Damascus' airport to welcome Mubarak, the first Egyptian president to visit Syria in 12 years after a break in diplomatic relations in 1977 immediately after Egypt's move to enter a separate peace treaty with Israel. Diplomatic ties were restored in March, and Mubarak's visit to Syria was seen as putting a seal on the two countries' reconciliation.

A red carpet and a warm hug by Assad greeted Mubarak at Damascus airport.

Pretoria, ANC start talks

CAPE TOWN (Agencies) — South Africa's white minority government and the African National Congress (ANC) began their first preliminary talks Wednesday with both sides expressing hopes for peace and an end to apartheid.

"We are going to these negotiations in the hope and confidence that something fruitful will come of it," Mandela said. "We are all going to these discussions in a serious frame of mind and in the hope that the expectations of all South Africans as well as the international community will be realized."

He said the three-day talks, the

first official meeting between the government and its chief opponent, "end the terrible tradition of dialogue between master and servant, the terrible tradition which we have to overcome."

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The talks were arranged to eliminate obstacles to formal negotiations on a new constitution and the end of white rule.

The subject of violence on both sides was expected to be a major point of discussion.

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The small rightist parties —

Khamenei: No direct talks with U.S.

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran's spiritual leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei Wednesday ruled out negotiations with the United States to end 12 years of hostility. It was not known what the anti-American stance adopted by Khamenei, the country's top leader, meant for the possibility of early release for more Western hostages. Khamenei's statement, carried by the state-run Islamic Republic News Agency, responded to a week-long debate in the Iranian press that followed an article by a senior government official calling for direct talks with the United States. The article, by Vice President Ahmad Mohajerani, was published Thursday in the daily Etehad. IRNA quoted Khamenei as saying: "I am against holding negotiations with the United States, and the Islamic republic government would not possibly do so without my consent." He added: "Those who think we must open negotiations with the United States are either simple-minded or terrified." Government officials "are naturally against such a thing," Khamenei said.

MPs vote against limiting House agenda

By Salameh Ne'matt
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Lower House of Parliament members Wednesday decided against a proposal to limit their agenda for the upcoming extraordinary session which they called for in a memorandum to His Majesty King Hussein at the end of the House's ordinary session last month.

In an informal session convened outside the parliament floor, Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs Sheikh Abdul Baqi Jammali proposed limiting the agenda by reducing the number of issues of to be tackled during the extraordinary session.

The issues for debate put forward by 55 deputies include continuing investigations into financial and economic corruption, assessing and following up on the government's performance on employment, the economy, education and information policies, discussing Israeli threats to Jordan and discussing draft laws that are proposed by the government.

Jammali suggested that the House focus its attention on discussing legislative matters rather than policy issues "that are primarily the government's domain."

He said that the government would refer to the house 12 draft laws including amendments to the 1935 defence law, a provisional law on illegal profiteering, provisional laws on imports and universities, amendments to the law on higher education, amendments to the military service law, a law abolishing the National Medical Institute, amendments to the economic crime punishment law, a provisional law for commercial agents and intermediaries, amendments to the higher court of justice law, and a

(Continued on page 5)



His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday meets Greek Orthodox Patriarch of Jerusalem Diodoros and other clerics (Petra photo)

No move to abolish Supply Ministry or lift subsidies

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — There is no government decision to abolish or change the status of the Ministry of Supply or to lift government subsidies on basic food commodities, an official source said Wednesday.

"The Ministry of Supply has a very important role to play and there is no decision whatsoever to abolish it or change its status," said the official, speaking on condition of anonymity. By the same token, the official said, "there is no decision to reduce or lift subsidies on basic commodities,"

"We will, I repeat, we will receive Arab financial assistance," he reaffirmed. "We are going to receive some before July," he said without disclosing the amount expected.

"Signs are good after His Majesty the King's recent visit to Saudi Arabia," he added, denying unconfirmed reports that Jordan had already received \$360 million to the 1990 budget, would be forthcoming.

The official said Jordan had not received any substantial amount of Arab financial assistance during the year, but expressed confidence that the aid, projected at \$360 million to the 1990 budget, would be forthcoming.

The official also dismissed speculation that the Jordanian dinar could be further devalued. "We can categorically

deny that any such moves are planned," he said. "The dinar has stabilised at the present exchange rate, and there is no need" for any devaluation, he stressed.

The official confirmed that there could be a limited cabinet change after noting that Planning Minister Avni Masri had submitted his resignation. "There could be some limited changes in the wake of the resignation, but I do not expect any major reshuffle at all," he said.

According to the official, the government is studying applications for licensing new magazines and other publications other than daily newspapers, which could be licensed only after the proposed national charter is completed and ratified. However, he said, "political and economy-oriented publications could be licensed only after further study." The official also disclosed that an amended press and publications law had been drafted and is currently under study by the minister of information, but was declined to make any specific comments on the highlights of the proposed legislation.

(Continued on page 5)

Palestinian shot dead in Gaza

arrest procedure."

Palestinian sources reported earlier that a second Palestinian was critically wounded in the pre-dawn shooting but later said he was arrested unharmed.

Palestinians said both were activists of the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas. Their slogans called for a commercial strike in Khan Younis Thursday in memory of three Arabs killed by troops in the Jabalya refugee camp Thursday.

Some 130 Palestinians were shot and wounded in the same clash on the feast of Eid Al Fitr.

The Israeli took Saka's body, still masked, in a white Peugeot 404, with distinctive licence plates

issued to Arabs, they said.

Palestinians said sporadic clashes erupted in Khan Younis after the killing. The army sent reinforcements backed by a military spotter plane but troops refrained from shooting, they said.

Shaka was a university student of Islamic law.

An Israeli human rights group said Wednesday soldiers raiding a West Bank village grabbed two Palestinians, smeared their faces with paint and forced them to sing a Hebrew song.

An army spokesman said military police were investigating the case of alleged abuse reported by the Israel Information Centre for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories.

The Human Rights Centre, known as Bselem in Hebrew, said the number of Palestinians killed by troops was decreased from an average 25 per cent in the first two years of the uprising to about 10 per cent in the past six months.

(Continued on page 5)

Lithuania seeks French, W. German mediation

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Lithuania's President Vytautas Landsbergis Wednesday appealed to the leaders of France and West Germany to help persuade Moscow to start talks with the breakaway republic on its independence bid.

In an interview this week, Shamir said he regretted Israel could not afford massive Jewish settlement in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip because of financial needs for a record influx of Soviet Jewish immigrants.

Shamir, trying to form a coalition of rightist and religious parties, Wednesday met far-right political leaders who have demanded more Israeli settlement in the West Bank and Gaza Strip despite world condemnation.

The issue could further strain relations with the United States. Shamir's "national unity" cabinet fell in March over his reluctance to accept U.S. proposals for first-ever peace talks with Palestinians.

Shamir said Monday he would seek a narrow centrist-right coalition and not ask Labour to join.

The main point is to ask them to convey to the Soviet government that we really want to sit down at the negotiating table," said Rita Dapkus, an official of Lithuania's information office.

He said the chamber offered no objections. Potashnikas also said the chamber backed the letter.

Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev has declared the independence declaration invalid.

Reed reportedly held with other Western hostages in Lebanon

WIESBADEN, West Germany (R) — Former American hostage Frank Reed was held with up to six other Westerners at times during his 43 months in captivity in Lebanon, his wife said Wednesday.

After a reunion with her husband at a U.S. military hospital in Wiesbaden Tuesday, Syrian-born Fatima (Fifi) Reed also said he was angry "with everybody" that he and other hostages were held for so long.

Mrs. Reed told a news conference he had been moved frequently and was held sometimes alone, sometimes with five or six other hostages.

She could not identify the other hostages but confirmed her husband had seen American journalist Terry Anderson, the longest-held Western hostage in Lebanon, at some point during his captivity.

Reed, 57, who was released in Beirut Monday and flown to West Germany, is believed to have left behind in Lebanon 15 other Western hostages, six of them American. Anderson, an Associated Press correspondent, was kidnapped in March 1985.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Khamenei against talks with U.S.

NICOSIA (R) — Iran's spiritual leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei spoke out Wednesday against the notion of direct contacts with the United States. "Those who think we must open negotiations with the United States are either simple-minded or terrified," the Iranian News Agency (IRNA) quoted Khamenei as saying in a speech to teachers. He was referring to a row that broke out last week over the government's attitude towards Washington amid efforts to release Western hostages held by pro-Iranian militants in Lebanon. Vice-President Aataollah Mohajerani argued in an article published in the Ettehad newspaper Thursday that Iran should not deprive itself of the benefits of direct contact with the United States. Hardliners attacked his article as a sell-out to the "great Satan" — the late Ayatollah Khomeini's phrase for the United States — and Tehran University students held a rally to condemn it. Mohajerani acknowledged in a rejoinder Tuesday that his article was not inspired by President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani or anyone else. But he defended its content and said Rafsanjani approved of public debate over the issue.

Kelly holds talks in Algeria

ALGIERS (R) — U.S. Assistant Secretary of State John Kelly discussed bilateral ties and the Lebanese and Middle East conflicts Tuesday night with Algerian Foreign Minister Sid Ahmad Ghazali, a U.S. embassy spokeswoman said. Algeria plays a leading diplomatic role in Arab efforts to end the 15-year-old civil war in Lebanon and enjoys wide influence with key players in the Middle East conflict. Commercial ties between the two countries are growing largely due to Algerian imports of U.S. wheat and U.S. imports of Algerian gas. Kelly, appointed a year ago, is on a familiarisation tour of North Africa, the spokeswoman said.

Moroccan prince visits Gulf states

RABAT (R) — Crown Prince Sidi Mohammad, elder son of King Hassan of Morocco, and Foreign Minister Abdul Latif Filali left Rabat Wednesday for Abu Dhabi on an official visit to the United Arab Emirates, an official source said. They will also pay official visit to Kuwait and Iraq.

2 Germans questioned over Rabta fire

ROME (AP) — Libya's official news agency said Wednesday that two West Germans were being interrogated in connection with the mysterious fire at a Libyan chemical plant in March. West German companies had helped build the plant, which the United States claims produced poison gas. Libya says the facility in Rahta, 60 miles southwest of Tripoli, produces pharmaceuticals. Immediately after the March 15 fire, Libyan leader Col. Muammar Qadhafi had threatened to retaliate against West Germany if its agents had set the blaze. West Germany denied any responsibility. The Libyan News Agency (JANA) identified the Germans as a company executive and a technician for the same firm. The report, monitored in Rome, was attributed by JANA to "sources at the General People's Committee of Justice." In West Germany, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said he was checking on the report. The West German embassy in Tripoli, reached by telephone from Rome, said no officials were available for comment.

JORDAN TELEVISION

PROGRAMME ONE
15:30 Koran
15:45 Programme review
15:45 Children programme
17:15 Book of Adventure
18:00 News for the Dead
18:20 Religious programme
19:45 Health programme
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Local series
21:30 Programme review
21:45 Local programme
22:30 Arabic film
23:00 News in Arabic
PROGRAMME TWO
17:15 Motivational
18:30 La Chance aux chemins News in French
19:00 News in French
19:15 Varieties
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 News in Arabic
20:30 The Coby Show
21:15 NBA Basketball
22:00 News in English
22:20 Feature film: "Those she left behind"

PRAYER TIMES

04:15 Fajr
05:44 Sunrise (Dhuhr)
12:32 Dhuhr
14:12 'Asr
19:21 Maghrib
20:47 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swieifha
Tel. 810740

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Queen receives St. John Ophthalmic Hospital group

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Al Hussein Wednesday received at Hammam Palace a visiting group from St. John Ophthalmic Hospital of Jerusalem in London, which is a charitable foundation of the Grand Priory of the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem.

Her Majesty Queen Noor is the honorary president and patron of the Friends of St. John Ophthalmic Hospital of Jerusalem, and has taken part in many of the foundation's fund raising activities. The proceeds of such activities are used in financing the hospital's mission of providing screening and eye care to villages and rural areas in the West Bank.

With an annual budget of 1.3 million pounds, a team of specialists from the United Kingdom, the United States, Australia and Canada, run the hospital.

The hospital, the first specialising in eye treatment in the Middle East, was opened on the road to Bethlehem in 1882. In 1906, it was transferred to its present self-contained compound in Jerusalem.

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Cabinet is currently studying the prospect of reducing customs fees imposed on the importation of live sheep which now amounts to JD 8 per head, according to a statement by Minister of Agriculture Suleiman Abbadi.

"Should the council approve the idea or should the duty be altogether scrapped, the Ministry of Agriculture will request the Prime Ministry to allow local stock breeders to start exporting sheep without any restrictions, but exported sheep should not be less than 30 kilograms per head," Abbadi said.

Arabiya said the country should have a specific law to control the process of import of live sheep in order to provide protection to the local breeders.

The Ministry of Agriculture, in cooperation with the Ministry of Supply, had lately resorted to imports of sheep from Australia and other countries to meet the growing demand of fresh meat in the wake of a halt in shipments of fresh meat from Romania and diminishing supplies from Bulgaria and Turkey.

AMMAN (J.T.) — A delegation representing a union of British army veterans officers who served in Palestine during the British mandate period is due to arrive Friday for a two-week visit to Jordan and the West Bank. During the visit, the delegation will visit several historic and archaeological sites. The union, which includes British officers who served in Palestine during the British Mandate and World War I and II, aims at strengthening its members' relations with the states where they spent long service periods.

AMMAN (J.T.) — The founding members of the Jordanian-American Friendship Society held their first meeting Wednesday and agreed there was more groundwork to be done before electing their first executive committee.

The members argued that bylaws of the society, as approved by the Ministry of Interior, would not allow the group to be active enough to influence the American decision-making process on the political level.

"One of our main objectives is to clarify our national and regional problems to the American people and administration. If we stick to the society's current by-laws, we would be no more than a charitable society," one of the members said at the meeting.

This, however, was not the only reason for postponing the inaugural session until May 22, since only 15 out of the 27 founding members attended the meeting. Members agreed that more founders should attend before an executive committee could be formed in order to change the by-laws.

The society was founded with the aim of developing cultural, social and artistic cooperation and enhance the spirit of understanding between the peoples of Jordan and the United States of America.

In his opening remarks, Issa Okla, a founding member, told the participants of efforts exerted

by several members to contact American media establishments to assist their help in creating awareness among the American public of the Middle East problems and dispel misconceptions about the region.

"We all know the importance of the American position on regional issues and we felt the need to improve our media image and enhance our influence in the United States," Okla said.

He added that during their contacts with several American newspapers and the American public at large "we found that the American public does not know anything about us or our problems."

The 15 attending members decided to hold their next meeting hoping it will be attended by the remaining 12 members who were unable to participate in Wednesday's meeting.

The founders include: Sharif Zaid Ben Shaker, Marwan Al Qasem, Husam Abu Ghazaleh, Abdallah Ensour, Fadel Ali Al Fezaid, Dr. Fawzi Ta'imeh, Mohammad Ahmad Hamdan, Abdul Rahim Al Ghbari, Dr. Daoud Hanania, Mohammad Kamal, Faiz Al Gharayeb, Tamer Kanan, Fayez Tarawneh, Issa Okla Abu Dayeh, Khaldoun Abu Hassan, Rajai Shkhar, Aif Al Hassan, Dr. Alfred Dayat, Dr. Rajai Musheir, Dr. Ramzi Muasher, Ali Farid Al Sa'd, Ziad Al Hosni, Khaled Mohammad, Adnan Bayoun, Jamal Al Samayrah and Edmund Adam.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

THEATRE

* Children play in Arabic entitled "Al Shabab" (The Witness) at the Royal Cultural Centre — 4:00 p.m.

BAZAAR

* Charity bazaar displaying brass and woodworks, ceramics, photos and paintings depicting the Jordanian environment and Islamic and cultural books at Al 'Awid Club, Zarqa.

FILM

* Feature film entitled "Who Framed Roger Rabbit" at the American Centre — 7:00 p.m.



Prince Faisal inaugurates golf club

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Prince Faisal Ben Al Hussein Tuesday inaugurated Al Bisharat Golf Club. Prince Faisal commanded the club and said it equals international clubs in terms of organisation; he expressed hope that this sport would become popular in Jordan. He said the establishment of such playground will enhance relations between the Jordanian people and the diplomatic corps working in the Kingdom. The prince attended matches organised in the opening ceremony and distributed awards to winners in the matches (Petra photo).

Jordan to attend ACC housing talks

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan is to take part in a meeting of the Arab ministers of housing and public works in the four-member Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) which groups the two countries as well as Iraq and North Yemen.

Arabiya said the country should have a specific law to benefit from Egypt's expertise in this industry as well as topics concerning the Egyptian-Jordanian holding company.

Earlier Wednesday Arabiyat opened a meeting of a joint ACC agricultural committee by paying tribute to the close cooperation among the ACC countries in agriculture.

Arabiya said nevertheless that the volume of exchanged agricultural products among the ACC member states was far less than the aspired goal.

Army veterans to visit Jordan, W. Bank

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NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

King condoles Abu Taleb family

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday delegated Chief Chamberlain Prince Raad Ben Zeid to convey condolences to Abu Taleb family over the death of Ali Abu Taleb. His Royal Highness Prince Hassan also delegated his advisor, Brigadier Mohammad Njadat, to convey condolences to Abu Taleb family.

Mubarak sends greetings to King

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday received a cable from Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak who was crossing the Jordanian airspace heading to Syria. Mubarak wished the King continued good health and happiness and the Jordanian people further progress and prosperity.

Arar calls meetings for House members

AMMAN (Petra) — Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Sulaiman Arar, chairman of the Arab Cooperation Council's (ACC) parliamentary committee decided Wednesday to call the committee for a meeting Thursday. Also Thursday, Arar called the house's foreign affairs committee to meet the chairman of the Belgian parliament's foreign affairs committee who is currently on a visit to Jordan.

Ministry of Culture makes gifts of books

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Culture has presented collections of books, and cultural, literary, scientific and historic magazines to several municipalities, cultural clubs and societies in various parts of the Kingdom during the month of April. The ministry has also presented a collection of books dealing with various topics to Jordan Sports Federation for the Handicapped, the National Association for Educating the Children and Al Muqar Society for Social Development.

Islamic Academy committee to meet

AMMAN (Petra) — The Islamic Academy's committee will hold a meeting Saturday under the chairmanship of Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Ali Al Faqir to discuss some proposals and studies concerning the academy. The committee includes as members President of the Islamic Academy for Islamic Civilisation Research Nassereddin Al Assad, Senators Kamel Al Sharif and Ishaq Al Farhan, the Kingdom's General Mufti Izzeddin Al Khath, the Armed Forces Mufti Noah Al Qadah, deputy Abdul Latif Arabiya, Dean of the University of Jordan's Faculty of Sharia Ibrahim Zeid Al Kilani and the Orphans Fund Director General Abdul Salam Al Abbadi.

Yarmouk University attends conference

IRBID (Petra) — Yarmouk University participated in the American Society for Higher Education conference held in San Francisco recently. The university's vice president for academic affairs, Mohammad Abu Saleh, represented the university in the conference. The university also took part in the 13th conference of the European accounting committee which was held in Budapest, Hungary. Dr. Sayed Ramadan, who represented the university in the conference, said he submitted a working paper dealing with accountancy and auditing in Jordanian institutions and industrial companies.

Unions plan 'silent march' in May for Palestinian rights

By Sana Atiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — In the morning of

May 14, thousands of people will start marching from the monument of the unknown soldier in south Shuneh in the Jordan Valley, heading towards the King Hussein bridge demanding the right of Palestinians to return to their homeland. According to Dr. Mamduh Abbadi, member of the popular committee for combating emigration and settlement (of Jews to Palestine and the occupied territories).

Speaking at a press conference at the Jordan Medical Association (JMA) Wednesday, Abbadi, also president of the JMA, said the march would follow a two-day conference on combating Jewish immigration and settlement in occupied Palestine and on the human rights of Palestinians.

The conference, scheduled to open May 12 under the patronage of His Majesty King Hussein, will include Arab professional and trade union leaders.

"Two hundred Arab union leaders are expected to join the march, as well as representatives from Lower and Upper Houses of Parliament, the Palestine National Council (PNC), the Jordan Popular Committee for the Support of the Intifada, Palestinian deportees and the committees of public freedoms from the Lower House and the Jordanian professional unions, all of whom have adopted the march," Abbadi told journalists.

In the first year of the three-year agreement, KAF will provide DM 100,000 worth of technical assistance which will benefit social development schemes in the Kingdom.

The call was contained in the main working paper submitted to the three-day conference by Jordanian pharmacist Nizar Jardaneh who chairs the Arab Federation of Producers of Arab Pharmaceutical Products and Medical Appliances.

The paper, entitled "The Pharmaceutical Policy of Jordan," said: "The present economic crisis in the Kingdom makes it imperative on us to reexamine the pharmaceutical and medicine situation in Jordan and adopt a new clear policy that would conform to the present restructuring programme and help reduce the deficit in Jordan's balance of payments by increasing exports and reducing imports."

"High quality medicine should be made available to all citizens and Jordanians should be encouraged to use locally made medicine," Jardaneh said.

His paper presented several proposals designed to help Jordan acquire a clear pharmaceutical strategy.

The conference was formally opened by Health Minister Mohammad Addoub Al Zaben who deputised for His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

"The Ministry of Health has succeeded through its close cooperation with the Jordan Pharmacists Association (JPA) in going a long way towards meeting the national needs of medicines," the minister said.

"The two sides have cooperated in the process of registering locally manufactured and imported medicines, in controlling dangerous drugs and in organising the local pharmacy market by fixing prices of medicine and making available most needed pharmaceutical products," Zaben said.

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The two-day meeting is also dedicated to reviewing reports by the AACO's three technical committees on training, air safety and medical services.

Royal Jordanian (RJ), the national airline's president and chief executive officer Husam Abu Ghazaleh opened the meetings with a speech underlining the importance of cooperation and coordination between Arab airlines in various areas and especially in air safety.

"Above all JPA's close cooperation with the Ministry of Health has resulted in creating new jobs for Jordanians and attracted national capital to be invested in pharmaceutical industries," he said.

JPA President Tayseer Al Humsi addressed the conference referring to the association's continued endeavours in support of the Palestinian pharmacists in the occupied Arab territories.

Dr. Hashem Al Zaher, secretary-general of the Arab Pharmacists Federation and Abdul Munem Al Khouri, chairman of a committee which prepared the conference addressed the meeting which was organised by the IPA and is attended by 500 delegates from Jordan and other Arab countries.

A total of 18 working papers dealing with a wide variety of topics, mainly focusing on the medicine industry and marketing in the Arab World, are to be reviewed by the delegates.

The conference, being held under the slogan: "Medicine between national industry and imports," is expected to deal with the question of pricing imported drugs in Jordan in the light of on-going disputes between the Ministry of Health and (JPA) over prices of medicine.

The union leaders will address the crowd on the two issues adopted by the committee of the march when they reach the destination," Abbadi said.

When asked if the marchers would attempt to continue to Jerusalem as is planned by American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) march in June, Abbadi said:

"Do you think that a people

who demand the right to return

to Palestine would be able to

break through the barriers of

the bridge unless there was

approval from the Israeli au-

thorities? The enemy would

not allow entering the occu-

ped territories unless there was

coordinatation with them.

He explained that banners

would be carried by the mar-

chers and the march is planned

to be a silent one. "But if

people want to chant slogans

or sing nationalist songs, they

are welcome to do so," Abbadi said.

He said the popular commit-

tee for the combat of emigra-

tion and settlement, which was

established three months ago

"when the Americans stopped

allowing Jewish immigratio-

to the United States and helped

Israel in absorbing them in

Palestine," will not provide

transportation to south Shuneh

where the march will be laun-

ched.

He explained that there was

coordinatation with the Public

Security Department to keep

order and ensure that no one

will "loose control."

The announcement said that

students taking practical ex-

aminations, like typing, will sit

for examination on May 21 and

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

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Editorial and advertising offices:

Jordan Press Foundation.

University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4, 684311, 684366

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 661242

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Reflections and hopes

JORDAN Wednesday marked His Majesty King Hussein's assumption of constitutional powers. During the 37 years of His Majesty's reign, Jordan achieved tremendous progress in all fields and at all levels. The country went through profound transformation from an underdeveloped country to a state with a considerable degree of sophistication in contemporary statehood. Throughout King Hussein's reign, the country maintained itself as an oasis of moderation and stability. This remarkable achievement was made possible under the wise leadership of the King. Jordan's success story has often been the subject of emulation by countries all over the world. Many theories were advanced to explain the ability of a small country to stay moderate and stable in a sea of turmoil in spite of many hurdles. The unanimous conclusion of all these studies point to the King, both as a monarch and a person, as being the very catalyst for the harmonious development of the country.

Whether it was King Hussein's early steps to consolidate the Kingdom's independence through the Arabisation of the Armed Forces or his historic decision to sever legal and administrative ties with the West Bank to bolster the Palestinian identity, the past 37 years came to a climax when he made the bold step towards reviving democracy in Jordan. Contemporary historians would certainly record the King's verdict that the time was ripe to enhance the country's political life in parallel with all the economic and social developments that have been achieved in the past four decades. By this timely decision to initiate the democratisation process the King has ushered in a completely new era in Jordan's history. How Jordanians would nurse this new political experience would determine its viability and durability. But, of course, with the King's wisdom and experience and the Jordanian people's political maturity, one would enthusiastically hope that the Kingdom will eventually surpass all the problems that it faces at present and will triumph in its quest to become a fully modernised and democratic state.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i daily on Tuesday paid tribute to His Majesty King Hussein for his endeavours to serve the Arab Nation over the past 37 years of his assuming constitutional powers. The paper also voiced the Jordanian people's appreciation of the efforts exerted by the workers who were instrumental in helping Jordan achieve progress and development. The joint efforts of the leader and the workers through the long march towards construction and development over the past decades have no doubt borne fruit and yielded excellent results represented in the present stability in the Kingdom and the democratic rule which the country now enjoys, said the paper. The paper referred to the projected national charter which, it said, will no doubt infuse further efforts towards democracy and towards national unity and progress for the country. As Jordan celebrates the 37th anniversary of King Hussein's assumption of his constitutional powers and Labour Day, the paper said, the people of Jordan look forward towards further accomplishments as a result of close cooperation between the leadership and the workers and between the monarch and his people.

Writing in Al Ra'i Tuesday columnist Tareq Massarweh calls on parliament to enact a special law, allowing the government to flush out the sources of evil and the corrupt officials who still hold senior positions in government departments. The writer says that certain elements of evil and corrupt officials who have now lost their power to pursue their underhand dealings and their embezzlement of public funds are now trying to make a return to the public scene through different means. All those responsible for the loss of millions of dinars on losing projects and all those officials who willingly approved of deals that were meant to make the country suffer, should be flushed out and removed from office and tried, says the writer. He notes that although the country is now enjoying an atmosphere of democracy, the general atmosphere remains poisoned with the presence of evil elements in their former positions in public or private organisations. The writer emphasises that since the people of Jordan are now paying the price, and are suffering from heavy debts and soaring prices, it is only just and fair that the representatives of the people should see that the elements of evil are removed from the scene.

Sawt Al Shaab daily said that Labour Day reminds Jordanians of the great efforts exerted by the workers in urban and rural areas, in factories and farms and in construction. The paper said that respect and appreciation of the workers can be displayed through respect of their production and through true commitment on the part of the Jordanian society to grant workers their full right and their legitimate share in the process of enhancing democracy in the country. There is no doubt, said the paper, that in an atmosphere of greater democracy, the workers can and will increase their production. The paper paid tribute to the government for allowing the workers to form unions of every kind because such moves can only bolster the democratic rule in the country.

Economic Forum

Third World debt: looming explosion

By Dr. Abdalla Malki

THE international debt is a problem that will certainly go with us into the 21st century. The third quarter of this century had seen the explosion of foreign aid, which started with the Marshall Plan for Europe before reaching the Third World and turning into what was termed as aid fatigue. The industrialised countries discovered that aid was not doing the conceived job. Ridiculously enough, certain statistical gimmicks were employed to show that aid had even an adverse effect on economic growth in less developed countries (LDCs).

At a certain point in the seventies, assistance from developed nations to LDCs took the form of loans, at relatively soft terms in the beginning and at pretty commercial ones later

on. The inflation of the seventies pushed interest rates up and this led to a hardening of borrowing terms and an escalation in the burden of servicing Third World debt. Now, this debt had swollen into something like \$1,200 billion.

The Third World debt has had two characteristic features which must be very annoying to all parties concerned. First, debt has been growing steadily and this growth took place even after the world awoke to the debt crisis and the real dangers of default by Third World debtor countries. Second, given the present terms of the outstanding debt and the present attitudes of creditor countries, based mainly on unforgiveness, the Third World debt will grow indefinitely.

Assume that the average contracted life of loans extended to LDCs is 12 years and the average interest rate on them is 10 per cent. This means that the service of Third World debt in terms of principal repayments and interest payments amounts to something like \$200 billion per annum. Of course, this figure dwarfs any growth figures of the exports of debtor countries. Now remember that the combined total exports of all developing countries, including non-debtor ones, is less than their debt of \$1,200 billion, which means that these exports can outgrow that debt only if they grow at more than 16 per cent on a sustained basis for a very long time. If that happens, the debt may start to

decline, assuming that the extra export proceeds are used to repay outstanding loans. And that is only a "start"; the end of the march is something else. Thus the international debt problem has been perpetuated under the present terms of this debt and the present attitudes of creditor countries.

If the growth of debtor coun-

tries export proceeds is not sufficient to service their external debt, then they must resort to more external borrowing in order to avoid default. Because no party wants them to default, debtor countries have been able to shop more external loans used for repaying old ones, commonly under the IMF-sponsored rescheduling mechanisms. But repayments are greater than fresh borrowings. This is the debt trap.

The above-mentioned "present attitude of creditor countries" is instrumental in this contest. This attitude is cen-

U.S. says all-Europe security system can't replace NATO

By Patrick Worsnip
Reuter

WASHINGTON — The United States, not convinced that the Soviet threat has been eliminated by Eastern bloc changes, is trying to strangle at birth any idea that a pan-European security system should replace NATO.

As the Western alliance faces up to key meetings on its future, with some questioning whether it is still needed now the East-West "iron curtain" has crumbled, U.S. officials are saying that while NATO may have to adapt, it is still vital.

"All of us would want to buy a cheap insurance policy if one were offered, and NATO is one," says James Dobbins, principal deputy assistant secretary of state for European and Canadian affairs.

A European collective security system has long been a Soviet objective but was rejected in the past by the West as an attempt to get American troops out of Europe and allow Moscow to dominate the continent.

Now, with Soviet troops pulling out of Eastern Europe, the emerging democracies there and some Western politicians have suggested the 35-nation Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) could step up its security role.

East German Prime Minister Lothar de Maiziere, while supporting membership of the expected unified Germany in the Western alliance, last week attacked "old style bloc thinking" and said: "What we need is a common European security system."

But U.S. officials say it is unrealistic to replace a multinational alliance with a CSCE system that would be based on each country's national forces individually.

"(The Soviets) want to take a collective defence arrangement, NATO, and substitute a collective security arrangement, CSCE... we're saying no, that's not even in your interest," Dobbins told European journalists last week.

Both sides agree that U.S. forces in Western Europe should go down from 305,000 to 225,000, with Moscow making an even bigger cut down to 195,000 in Eastern Europe.

If a treaty can be negotiated — the latest round of talks ended last week with major outstanding problems, especially on aircraft

numbers — it will be signed at a CSCE summit planned for about November.

American officials have hinted that U.S. troop levels could later go lower still, although they stop short of endorsing a proposal by Senate armed services committee chairman Sam Nunn that numbers should come down to between 75,000 and 100,000 within five years.

Another of Nunn's concerns, an end to NATO's land-based short-range nuclear weapons, does however seem likely to be met with officials expecting the alliance to drop plans to develop a new short-range missile.

NATO faces a busy period, starting when U.S. Secretary of State James Baker meets other allied foreign ministers next Thursday to discuss German unification.

There are further key meetings of defence and foreign ministers in May and June and plans for a summit, possibly in June or July, that will update the alliance's aims after the political earthquake in East Europe.

U.S. officials say they are sceptical that NATO could become in the foreseeable future a purely political organisation, as sometimes suggested in Europe. One called this "escapism" from the West's continuing security needs.

But some independent U.S. analysts say NATO will lose public confidence if it gives the impression it simply means to carry on for ever.

"NATO must make it clear it is working for conditions where it can be suppressed by a different security structure," says Stanley Sloan of the Congressional Research Service. "Only then will the public see the NATO role as relevant."

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Jordan Times

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Domestic life in Palestine — An objective history of the area

By Hana Darwazah

Domestic Life in Palestine, by Mary Eliza Rogers. First published in 1862, this edition published in 1989 by Kegan Paul International Limited. Price JD 19.350. P.P. 416.

WHILE the Palestinian intifada continues, and Palestinians resist the creation of yet more Jewish settlements to accommodate the massive influx of Soviet Jewish immigration, *Domestic Life in Palestine* offers a new argument to the fallacy perpetuated by the early Zionists about Palestine being in the 1800's "a land without a people for a people without a land."

Lending credibility to the book, is the fact that it was written by the sister of the British consul in Damascus. The author, Mary Rogers, paid a visit to her brother in Palestine between 1855 - 1857 and the sister of a British consul hardly be accused of being pro-Arab.

Rogers originally wrote *Domestic Life in Palestine* as a personal journal, a sort of an account of her own observations as a traveller, it was not intended for publication. It was rather more of a series of notes that she jotted down to help her remember her impressions of her trip. Upon returning to England and showing her notes to her friends, they encouraged her to rewrite her notes and publish them as a book.

Rogers has a keen observant eye that catches the minutest detail, plus an educated background that renders her descriptions vivid and arresting. In addition, Biblical references are abundant throughout the book and evident in her historical comparisons. For example, while describing the attire of a woman she came across she likens her veil to that of the Biblical figure of Ruth: "Bring the veil that thou hast upon thee and hold it, and when she held it, he measured six measures of barley, and laid it on her." (p. 161).

From Rogers' description of the people she meets, one gets a sense of the social situation of Palestine in the nineteenth century. Katherine a widow hired as Rogers' attendant was "subject to fits of mental derangement; for in the year 1834, when her native town was the scene of rebellion, her husband and little sons were murdered in her presence in their beds..." (p. 62). This apparently is a reference to Bethlehem where in 1834 there was a religious "insurrection" and Muslims were driven out of their homes and the town.

One also gains valuable insight into the demographic situation and distribution of people in Palestine in the 1950s. According to Rogers the population of Haifa in

1854 was as follows:

Muslims	1,200
Greek Catholics	400
Roman Catholics	50
Maronites	30
Orthodox Greeks	300
Jews	32
Total	2012 (p. 85)

The population of Nazareth:

Muslims	680
Greek Orthodox	1,040
Roman Catholics	480
Greek Catholics	520
Maronites	400 (p. 128)
Total	3120

"This gives a total of 3120; but the most recent and careful inquirers assure me that this estimate is too low; they reckon the total at 4000, and the Greek (Orthodox) Church is said to be on the increase. I never met a Jew either in Nazareth or Bethlehem!" (p. 128)

BOOK REVIEW

The political situation is portrayed lucidly through Rogers' accounts of her travels in the area. "Nearly all the Turks with whom I came in contact seemed to glory in successful intrigue, and were generally shrewd and clever. They had little or no sympathy with Arabs, and apparently no true patriotism," (p. 161).

The book is also valuable in that it explains some topics that are vague today, such as the origin, beliefs and rites of the Samaritans. The Samaritans apparently believe in the Pentateuch only, regarding other parts of the Bible as forgeries. They believe themselves to be children of Manasseh and Ephraim, and their priest is supposedly a linear descendant of the tribe of Levi. They are very close and inter-marry, thus the reason for their dwindling numbers.

Domestic life in Palestine covers many subjects, too many to go into details. As the title implies, it is a descriptive book. It describes the lives of Palestinian people of the time, their houses, their attire, and their land. The narrative style is beautiful and colourful, if slightly formal English. The details of the scenery and especially of the women's dresses are painstakingly described with an artistic perspective.



KPI PAPERBACKS

Being an artist herself, (the author apparently drew portraits and natural scenery), lends a reality of the book that leaves an imprint into the reader's imagination.

Although it cannot be described as easy reading, nor the kind of fast page turner that one cannot put down, *Domestic Life in Palestine* is a must for anyone interested in an objective history of the area, and a valuable addition to any decent library.

Riding high in a man's world

By Katie Sabet

CAIRO — While many young women dream of becoming journalists who will interview the famous or anchor television news programmes, reality shows that the top jobs are by and large reserved to men even today. The few women who have made it are very much the exception.

Egypt boasts one of them: She is Maha Abdul Fattah and she has made political journalism her specialty. Her employer, the *Al Akhbar* newspaper chain which is one of Egypt's leading media concern, recently rewarded her talent with a glamorous promotion. Formerly deputy editor for international affairs in Cairo, Maha will now represent *Al Akhbar* daily and its sister publication *Akhbar Al-Yom* in the United States and Canada. Based in Washington, she says she is still learning everyday, because the way of life is so different.

"It's at the same time easy and difficult to get the news here," she explains. Easy because of all the news briefings given by government officials and private groups, and difficult in the selection that has to be made from the mass of information available.

Elegant with the tailored look, Maha speaks eloquently of her work and her goals. "A journalist who does not change course radically now and again stagnates," she declared during a recent interview. Instead of focusing on stability and job security, Maha is intent on furthering her career, even if that means founded *Al Akhbar*, sent



Maha Abdul Fattah

Maha to cover an international conference.

"I suppose they must have been satisfied with my article," she says with a smile, "because they continued to give me similar assignments until the day they actually gave me the post recently.

"We don't have any children and that makes things

vacated by Hamdi Fouad. I was stunned. Never in my wildest dreams had I hoped for so much!"

Time has proved that the brothers were right to trust Maha. Today she is facing the challenge of setting up a new office and organising what will be demanding work.

At this point she is not sure where her office will be. "For now I'll work out of my apartment. For me the important thing is to write and can do that anywhere," she says.

Even when the operation is on an even keel, she probably won't have much time for her personal life, but she is used to that, she says.

"It is almost impossible to be a journalist at a certain level, and at the same time be a perfect home-maker," she notes wryly. While several of her female colleagues have either reduced their work hours or given up their career entirely for the sake of their families, Maha refused to marry young and start a family.

"I got married rather late, at a time when I felt it would not interfere with my career. I was more mature, I knew exactly what I wanted and I can safely say that my marriage is a success, although it may not be conventional as most," she says, adding that her job promotion won't interfere that much in the relationship because her husband is a businessman who travels the world. Instead of meeting up in Cairo, they will be together in the United States.

"We don't have any children and that makes things

easier. It was a deliberate choice we made together," she explains. "To me, children are not a hobby, they are a full-time job. I speak of choice, but really, it was more a question of fate. In any case, it is too late now."

In setting her goals, Maha, consciously or not, rejected the mantle of tradition which guides the lives of many women in the Arab World and elsewhere. "When people talk about traditions, I say that society is made up of individuals and that providing moral principles are respected, an individual should be allowed to have his own concept of life," she says. But she does not see herself as a role model.

"In Egypt some women are living in the Middle Ages while others are well into the 21st century. I chose modernity," she argues. It gives her a sense of pride to have won the respect of her colleagues and of the people with whom she has professional contacts.

Not to say that the road to success has always been a smooth one. "At the beginning especially, I had lots of problems. I was young, I lacked experience and I did not realise that some people can do you harm for no reason at all," she says. A few years ago a major difficulty arose because of a misunderstanding with the paper's management. She ended up being sent home where she spent four years, waiting for things to change.

"Situations always change, it's just a question of patience and that makes things

Diary

THE JORDAN Press Association has rented a new building to house its offices which will also serve as a sort of press club, with conference rooms and spacious halls. The new building will be a far cry from the tiny apartment that now houses the Journalists' Association and their activities. In support of the press family in Jordan His Majesty King Hussein will personally pay the rent of the new centre. The Press Association will use the new building until it can come up with enough money to finance its own permanent headquarters on a land already allocated for the purpose opposite the Jordan Times' and Al Ra's offices on University Road. Informed sources told the Jordan Times that His Majesty has pledged to lead donations to help finance construction of the building.

UNCONFIRMED reports of a major reshuffle which will involve several under-secretaries are spreading around town with a date placed on the change at the beginning of next week. Observers maintain that such a move would indicate a strong shift in government policies since it is these second men who actually run their ministries. The reports are quickly gaining credibility as several prospective "candidates" are running around asking others if they had heard of such reports. One such person, who believes that he would be the best man for one of the openings, "denied" such reports categorically. "The reports cannot be true. I have not been contacted," he said.

TALKING about change and government changes, embassies and ambassadors will not escape unscathed. At least four ambassadors will be relieved from their official duties in order to allow them to spend more time in their homes here in Jordan. The move was made necessary apparently to make way for a long line of appointed ambassadors who have not been able to practise their diplomatic skills abroad. One source pointed out that the ambassadors who are currently serving will be moved to base rather than sideways. "The measure is only aimed at opening vacancies for new ambassadors at large," the source said, meaning that vacant posts will basically go to those envoys who have never served abroad.

ROYAL Jordanian is still faced with a problem that was believed solved weeks ago. An RJ captain, Safwan Hussein, refused to fly an aircraft on a flight from Amman to Paris while there was liquor on board. This happened a few weeks back and the captain has been grounded since then. The government had earlier banned the sale of alcoholic beverages on all our national carrier's flights. Sources at RJ told the Jordan Times that the problem is finally on its way to finding a solution. Rather than firing the pilot for refusing to obey rules and regulations, or giving in to his demand of banning alcohol from flights, he may be moved to another job which does not require him to carry either passengers or liquor on the aircraft he commands. Cargo flights are mentioned as a possible destination.

FOR one reason or another, the diary has been the recipient of many news items on the status of Jordan's embassy to Moscow, to the dismay and bewilderment of our ambassador there as well as several Foreign Ministry officials. A Jordanian voice vocalist who took an official trip to Korea as part of a three-member Jordanian delegation discovered the truth behind the status of the Jordanian embassy in the communist superpower. Pressed by pre-arranged appointments in Jordan, the vocalist had to leave Korea and return home earlier than the rest of the team. The only flight connection back to Amman was through Moscow. So our vocalist friend took the connection only to find that she was a day late for her flight back to Amman from Moscow and that she had to wait in Moscow for a week for the next flight. The first thing that came to her mind was to call the Jordanian embassy there to help her solve accommodation and other mundane problems at hand. For three hours, telephone operators at the airport were looking for a listing of a Jordanian embassy in Moscow, only to fail at their task and inform the by-now despondent vocalist that Jordan does not have an embassy in Moscow. So the vocalist tried the Palestinian embassy, which was immediately contacted and her one week stay in Moscow was smooth sailing from there on. Can someone please double check whether the Jordanian embassy in Moscow is actually listed in the directory or not?

Thoughts For the Week

For every minute you are angry, you lose 60 seconds of happiness

— Ralph Waldo Emerson, U.S. writer (1803-1882). A man wrapped up in himself makes a very small bundle

— Benjamin Franklin, U.S. statesman (1706-1790). From the little spark may burst a mighty flame

— Dante Alighieri, Italian poet (1265-1321). Victory belongs to the most persevering

— Napoleon Bonaparte, French emperor (1769-1821). To live is the rarest thing in the world. Most people exist, and that is all

— Oscar Wilde, Irish-born writer (1854-1900). Critics are the men who have failed in literature and art

— Benjamin Disraeli, English statesman (1804-1881). Though familiarity may not breed contempt, it takes the edge off admiration

— William Hazlitt, English essayist (1778-1830). Imagination is more important than knowledge

— Albert Einstein, German-born physicist (1879-1955). We think according to nature. We speak according to rules. We act according to custom

— Francis Bacon, English writer (1561-1626). One great use of words is to hide our thoughts

— Voltaire, French writer (1694-1778). Nemeen Murad

Weekly Preview JTV Channel 2

Thursday, May 3

8:30 Bill Cosby Show

Sandra gives birth to twins. Husbands and Mothers have a closed meeting to discuss nursing the twins and to help with the household work. The husbands try to break away from the responsibility to little avail.

9:10 Basketball

10:00 News in English

10:20 Movie of the Week

Those She Left Behind

Starring: Gary Cole, Joanna Kerns

Gary Cole (Fatal Vision) stars in this powerful and touching story. He portrays Scott Grimes, a businessman who seems to have the perfect life: a lovely wife Sue, expecting a baby; a beautiful dream home being built in the country; a successful real estate business. But his world falls to pieces when Sue dies in childbirth. Unprepared for the rigors of parenting, single or otherwise, he blames his tiny daughter Katie for the frustrations he encounters as he finds the daily demands of an infant infringing on the running of his small business. He even goes so far as to put Katie up for adoption before his estranged mother-in-law and caring co-worker Diane Pappas get him to stop and re-evaluate his life and his responsibilities. Ultimately, he determines to keep his baby, rebuild his life — and include a warm new relationship with Diane.

Friday, May 4

8:30 The Robert Guillaume Show

Edward does not believe his father's story about seeing

flying Saucers but Anne sees them too.

9:10 Beauty and the Beast

Vincent is determined more than ever to solve the mystery of his missing baby. His enemy sends a professional killer underground. Finally a clue is in hand.

10:00 News in English

10:20 Quincy Last Right

Quincy goes out of his way to help a friend in a neighbouring town to set up business similar to his.

Saturday, May 5

8:30 Surgical Spirit

Shelia Sabbatini has never believed in trivial pastimes. Suddenly a reunion with an old schoolfriend makes Shelia take stock of her situation.

9:00 Encounter

10:00 News in English

10:20 Feature Film

An Unsuitable Job for a Woman

Starring: Paul Freeman, Bette White

A rich man's son commits suicide. A young woman detective is asked to look into the case. She almost gets killed before she finds out that the son was a victim of some sort of business deal.

Sunday, May 6

8:30 Who's the Boss

Samantha's graduation ceremony is a happy wonderful event and nosy Angele almost spoils the fun.

9:10 World of Puppetry

Henk Boerwinkel created his first puppets in 1956 and

formed the Figuren Theatre Triangel in 1963 with his wife Ans. Their performances consist of a series of short items, without text, featuring marionettes, masks, rod and hand puppets. The use of all these techniques results in a richly contrasted programme full of surprising effects.

Videotaped in Meppel, Holland in the puppeteer's attic space in co-production with KRO Television and directed by Jirr Henson.

10:00 News in English

10:20 Charles in Charge

It turned out that the change in Charles' personality happened because of a kick on his head and another kick cures our Charles

9:10 The Nuclear Age

In the last four decades humanity has acquired the power to destroy totally not only itself but the entire planet and has twice proved it the series lucidly examines the nature and implication of this issue.

10:00 News in English

10:20 In the Heat of the Night Blind Spot part-2

Virgil narrowly escapes death at the hands of Richie Epsom's henchmen, but Gillespie still does not have enough evidence to prove the former.

Wednesday, May 9

Laura's latest adventure is treasure hunting but the consequences are not quite what she expected

9:10 A Horseman Riding By

10:00 News in English

10:20 Perfect Strangers

Newsletters

Baldi shows his willingness to become a reporter. His cousin Tarry supports him and actually gets into trouble for supporting his cousin

Weekend Crossword

Edited by Herb Ellerson

NOW THAT APRIL'S HERE

By S.E. Wilkinson

ACROSS:
1. By design.
4. Staff for myself.
6. Pins, tool.
10. Small, uninteresting.
12. Fictional character.
13. Fictional bell.
14. Singular, singular.
15. "Kale and Allie".
20. Semi-circle.
21. Not at all.
22. Not at all.
24. Kalmansi's land.
26. Spring thing.
27. Speechless.
29. Bill's dog.
30. Author.
31. Part of Mac's.
32. Not at all.
33. Samwise.
34. Smashed all.
35. Sonny's dog.
36. Sawdust paddle.

DOWN:
1. Farmer.
2. Stock up.
4. Run ends.
5. Twice thus.
7. Eaten out.
8. Snore tabs.
9. Not at all.
10. Instant food.
11. Cutie in.
12. Sausage.
13. First kiss.
14. First kiss.
15. Thrice.
16. Gerbilbore.
21. Dreg.
22. Author Wols.
25. Sand cast.
26. Sawdust paddle.

30. Jewel.
32. Wilt.
34. Highland hat.
35. Tram.
36. Not at all.
41. Judge at times.
42. First at first.
43. Admits.
44. Taboo — Train.
46. Buddies.
47. Aspirations.
48. Not at all.
49. South of the border.
50. Not at all.
51. Serves canons.
52. Pi.
53. Pi.
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58. Pi.
59. Pi.
60. Pi.
61. Grand Old.
63. Fellow.
65. Over.
67. They come out.
68. In for a penny.
69. In for a pound.
70. They come out.
71. Pi.
72. Pi.
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74. Abbott.
75. Diamond coin.
77. Happiness.
78. Butter.
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Actor Roy Scheider mixes politics and movies

By Christopher Michael Reuter

NEW YORK — Roy Scheider's new film, *The Fourth War*, chronicles a private conflict between a U.S. border patrol colonel and his Soviet counterpart in the age of glasnost.

The American actor, well-known for his portrayals of various screen tough guys, said he was intrigued by the idea of personal East-West conflict in the new political climate.

Events in Eastern Europe have been moving so quickly, he said, that writers for some films with a Soviet setting had to scramble while the pictures were in production to keep facts accurate.

Scheider has made a number of films with Soviet themes in recent years.

A few years ago he hosted *Portrait of the Soviet Union*, a television documentary offering an inside look at Soviet life. And recently he finished filming the adaptation of John le Carré's *The Russia House*, with Michelle Pfeiffer and Sean Connery.

Scheider said his fourth *War* character, Jack Knowles, is not like the strong-jawed heroes he's played before (*Blue Thunder*, *French Connection*, *The 7-Ups*).

"He's really a hero and a fool at the same time," he said.

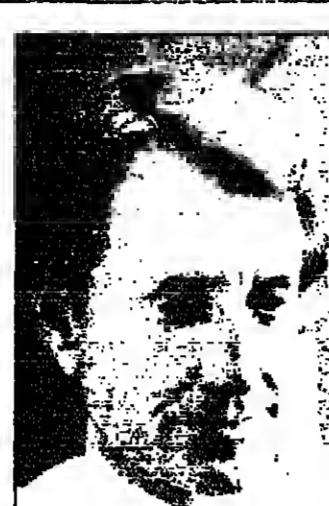
"He's a super patriot, with a super ego about his country's military."

Scheider, 54, said he finds himself thinking and acting much more politically in his middle years.

"I've shot my mouth off plenty about capital punishment, which I am opposed to," he said. His current project, *Someone Has to Shoot the Pictures*, is a film for television with a decidedly anti-capital punishment slant.

Prison dramas might seem typical Scheider material, given his frequent past portrayal of policemen, military men and other miscellaneous tough guys. In *Someone Has to Shoot...*, however, he plays a photographer rather than a prisoner of a guard.

He's played so many cops, in fact, he is often recognized



Roy Scheider

and gets picked up by squad cars when trying to hail a taxi in New York City, this is not such a bad thing," he noted.

It's a far cry from the days when blue uniforms "Gave me the willies." When I was a kid I was always getting into trouble," he said.

"But after I did the *French Connection* and a couple of other movies about cops, I got a certain empathy and understanding for what their life is like."

Scheider said the challenge in the tough-guy roles

is "finding the vulnerable side to these hardheads, to humanise them." In *The Fourth War*, he wrote a scene in which Knowles speaks tenderly on the telephone with his children back home.

His most acclaimed role along those particular lines was as a song and dance man in Bob Fosse's 1979 film, *All That Jazz*, for which Scheider earned his second Academy Award nomination. The first was for *The French Connection*.

"A lot of people screamed and hollered and said 'what the hell are you doing, Fosse? That's bad casting,'" Roy Scheider can't do that?"

"That made the challenge all the more interesting, and we pulled it off," he said "but that was such a juicy, multi-dimensional role that you're lucky if you get one in a lifetime. It's tough to top."

He might have topped it in a film he was set to star in called *The Deer Hunter*, but under contract to Universal, he was forced to quit the production that helped rocket Robert De Niro to stardom in order to repeat his role as Sheriff Brody in *Jaws III*.

Scheider said the challenge in the tough-guy roles

Sistine Chapel cleaning enters final phase with 'Last Judgement'

By Philip Pullella Reuter

VATICAN CITY — Gianluigi Colalucci will feel the difference in his neck.

Nearly every day for the past 10 years he has stood on high scaffolding, his neck craned upward, and lovingly cleaned Michelangelo's awesome frescoes on the Sistine Chapel ceiling.

Now that they have returned to their original brilliant colours — freed of centuries of dirt, grime, smoke stains and the blunders of earlier would-be restorers — Colalucci, 60, can at last lower his head and work in a natural position.

For the next four years the chief restorer of the Sistine Chapel will be looking squarely at the wall of the last judgment, which the Renaissance art historian Vasari called "that great painting sent by God to men on Earth."

Working behind scaffolding that hides the massive altar wall from the public, Colalucci will face a vengeful Christ, a timid Madonna, saints floating to paradise, desperate sinners tumbling to hell and trumpeting angels.

"But for the most part, after 10 years of work on the ceiling, we know what we will be up against."

In 1994, 496 years after Michelangelo began one of the world's greatest art treasures, the entire Sistine Chapel will re-emerge almost as it was in 1541 when he finally replied to years of taunts by impatient popes with the words: "It is finished."

Unlike the ceiling, which mostly suffered from the elements, the 160 square metre last judgment was above all a victim of history.

With the exception of Christ, the Virgin, and a number of saints, most of its figures were painted naked by

restorers.

Michelangelo ordered him to make the painting "suitable." Michelangelo replied: "Let him (the Pope) make the world a suitable place and the painting will follow suit."

A month before he died in 1564, the Council of Trent, which spearheaded the counter-reformation, decreed rules of decorum for religious art and ordered some last judgment nudes covered with loincloths.

The artist who "fixed" Michelangelo, Daniele da Volterra, entered history with the fitting nickname "breach-maker."

For main additions, Da Volterra did not merely cover offending parts. He hacked out sections, and painted en-

"We should conserve what is coherent with history. Whatever you conserve can be removed at any time. What you remove is lost forever," he said.

To clean the last judgment, Colalucci expects to modify his restoration techniques only slightly, adapting them to a vertical instead of hanging surface. The wall was also more damaged by past restorations because it was more accessible.

Through chemical and molecular analysis restorers are able to tell which brushstrokes Michelangelo applied to dried frescoes to highlight his figures and which were added later.

Tests have shown that for the last judgment's sky, Michelangelo used Lapis Lazuli, a dazzling blue stone which was the most expensive pigment available in his time.

"The blue will be extraordinarily brilliant. The results could be more astounding than the ceiling," said Mancinelli.

Vatican museum officials have taken several steps to preserve the Sistine Chapel. But they have ruled out limiting the number of visitors — which hit a high of 19,000 in one day last summer.

Special dust-absorbing carpets have been laid and a computer-controlled air filtration system will be installed.

But no high technology can bring back Michelangelo's nudes.

As a consolation, art lovers

can visit a Vatican exhibition on the Sistine restoration, where a small copy of Michelangelo's original last judgment made by Marcello Venusti in 1545.

In it St. Catherine is nude and St. Blaise is looking straight at her.

Disgraced beauty queen begins successful singing career

By Michael Miller Reuter

LOS ANGELES — Vanessa Williams, stripped of her Miss America title six years ago after nude pictures of her appeared in a magazine, has bounced back to become one of the country's hottest new singers.

"Success is the best revenge," says the 27-year-old singer, dancer and actress.

With a million-seller album behind her, Williams feels she has vindicated the faith she had in herself, when many others were writing her off as a disgraced beauty queen.

"The thought of giving up never crossed my mind," she said in an interview with Reuters.

"I had prepared my whole life to be a performer. I just had no other choice. I didn't want to sell real estate. I didn't want to be a secretary. I wanted to sing and dance."

"I knew I was talented and it would just be a matter of time before I'd get an opportunity to work."

Williams was crowned Miss America 1984 at the age of

20, the first black winner in the pageant's history.

It is a far cry from the mansions of Beverly Hills, Bel Air or Malibu, where most stars live, and Williams admits that at present it's about all she can afford.

"I didn't win a lot of money with winning the (Miss America) title, and unfortunately the work has not been as steady as I would have liked, due to everything that happened six years ago."

"I have a lot of debt, but hopefully we will be out of debt pretty soon. Luckily, with the success the album's had I think we'll be able to pretty much start a clean slate and really start bringing in some money," she said.

The album, *The Right Stuff*, was her first and brought her three Grammy Award nominations.

Her second album is due out in July and Williams hopes it will be even more successful and lead to tours of Europe and the United States.

Williams, who has also appeared in two feature films and a number of television shows, is very conscious of

her responsibilities as a mother. She and her husband take the children with them whenever they are away from home and she tries to give them as normal a life as possible.

She explained she did not want her children to grow up in a show business environment but in Westchester County, just north of New York City, where she spent her early years.

There, she said, she can buy a nice home on a few acres of land for less than a million dollars, "which is unheard of in Los Angeles."

"I think L.A. is a great place, if you're single and you've got a lot of money," she said. "But I'm not single, and I don't have a lot of money."

Britain plays out epic drama over money for the arts

By Anne Senior Reuter

LONDON — Britain is showing its age-old flair for theatre in a dispute over money for the arts.

The country's hallowed arts companies are short of cash, but Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's government says culture must pay its way like any other business in a free-market economy.

Arts administrators say they are guardians of Britain's heritage, not just business managers, and need help from the public purse to rescue the arts from the taint of commercialism and possible oblivion.

They point to surveys which portray Britain as one of the least generous patrons of the arts in Western Europe.

The dispute has been simmering for years but erupted over the last few months with the vitriolic monologues, potshots at dooms, and other touches of high Shakespearean drama.

Passions rose to a new pitch when the Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC) announced it had to cut productions over the winter to save money.

The RSC, expected to lose up to £2 million (\$8 million) this year, will close its two London venues for about four months but continue performances at Shakespeare's birthplace in central England.

The company's incoming Artistic Director Adrian Noble delivered a plea for funds from the RSC stage in London's Barbican Arts Centre.

Noble denied he was being handed a "poisoned chalice" but his gloomy demeanour would have suited a tragic hero.

Britain's other "flagship" arts companies are also in trouble. Despite an 11 per cent funding increase this year by the arts council, the main channel for government arts funding, they say they are still suffering from years of neglect.

London's Royal Opera

House is around £3 million (\$5 million) in deficit. The English National Ballet and the English National Opera (ENO) had to be given an emergency injection of government funds this year after their local authority slashed its budget contribution.

According to a study published this week, Britain spends less per head on subsidies for the arts than Sweden, West Germany, France, the Netherlands and Canada.

The survey by the London-based Policy Studies Institute, an independent research unit, put Britain next to last in a seven-nation league table, with only the United States spending less on the arts through local and central government grants.

Annual arts spending ranged from nearly £20 per head (\$46) in Sweden to around £10 in (\$16) in Britain and only £2 pounds (\$3) in the United States during 1987, the most recent year for which comprehensive figures

were available.

When spending was calculated in relation to economic output Britain also came sixth and the United States seventh.

"British expenditure has increased slightly since 1987 but the broad picture is the same," said Andrew Feist, co-author of the study.

Arts Minister Richard Luce says arts companies do important work for Britain but must be weaned from a "welfare state mentality" and stop relying on society to bail them out.

The National Campaign for the Arts (NCA), an independent arts lobby, says sponsorship has brought welcome new money into the arts, but not enough to make up for decades of under-funding.

Grants for the arts rose only one per cent in real terms in the 10 years to April 1989, while business sponsorship has now stabilised at around five per cent of overall arts funding, said NCA researcher Graham Hitchen.

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• المسألة: الثالث والستين من عدد الأردن

• العنوان: في مصطفى علواني - شارع طه حسين

• المكان: متحف العد الطليقي للفلسطينيين /الأردن

لزيادة من المعلومات يرجى الاتصال بعاصف ٧١١-٧٥

More than artificial limbs to Jordan's orthopaedic centre

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — A man and a young girl steady each other across the floor, while a youth leans back in his chair adjusting some straps. A typical scene at one of Amman's specialised centres for the disabled, and the number of beneficiaries is steadily increasing as a facility to produce artificial limbs is expanding its programmes in Jordan.

The man and woman had lost their legs in a mine explosion in the Dead Sea area, and the youth had to have his leg amputated as a result of cancer. They are among the hundreds who have indirectly benefited from the National Training Centre for Orthopaedic Technologists (NTCOT), which not only trains Jordanians in produc-

ing artificial limbs but also offers specialised courses in helping reintegrate disabled people into their families, workplace and society.

Students enrolled for the three-year programme at the centre, which is attached to the Prince Mona Nursing College, come from the Ministry of Health as well as the Royal Medical Corps, and have proved to be a very significant addition to health services in the Kingdom, according to leading social workers.

By definition, orthopaedic technology deals with physical disabilities by applying technical skills to rehabilitate and make the disabled productive members of the society.

'Life worth leading'

"From the viewpoint of the disabled, orthopaedic technology has the humanitarian

element of help to lead a life that is worth living," says Jans Franke, supervisor of the programme at the Princess Mona Nursing College. "They expect this task to be accomplished through a combination of the technical know-how of recovering (full or partial) physical abilities and the psychological insight into their suffering," Franke, a West German, told the Jordan Times.

The main aim of the centre, Franke explained, is to train Jordanians to help improve the life of the disabled through acquiring technical as well as psychological strategies to deal with varying aspects of individual cases. "This is all the more important since the economic situation of most of the disabled does not allow them to take things easy," he said.

The centre/school at the nursing college is the only one of its kind in Middle East, and was set up with help from the government of West Germany, which financed three long-term experts and several short-term experts for the project in addition to supplying teaching equipment and material for theoretical training.

The centre helped about 800 disabled persons during last year alone, and about 200 of them were attended to by its third year students, according to Franke. Most of the beneficiaries were from the Amman and Irbid areas, he said.

"We are trying to establish a workshop to produce prostheses at the Princess Basma Hospital in Irbid," he added.

The centre annually takes in 12 students with a minimum of 75 per cent marks in

the tawjhi science stream. The first year of study focuses on introducing the trainees into the areas of basic techniques, machinery, mathematics, anatomy and biomechanics.

In the second year, further emphasis is given to anatomy and biomechanics, dealing with prosthesis and orthoses with a view to intensifying the students' understanding of the principles of static and dynamic alignments of orthopaedic appliances. Practical work during the year involves the production of components for lower limb prosthesis and static and dynamic alignment of the produced parts.

During the third year, the trainees, in addition to theoretical studies, are fully introduced into the art of making orthopaedic appliances.

"During this final phase of the course, the future technologists are supposed to be able to transform the orthopaedic technology they learnt into practical help" for the disabled, Franke said. Students do the practical work at Al Bashir Hospital under strict supervision. "The main focus of the entire programme is that it is intended that the student should gain and develop a feeling of work and on the patient," Franke said.

Lack of recognition'

Students who graduate from the programme after having undergone examinations from West Germany are "highly qualified orthopaedic technologies," Franke said. But, their qualifications are not recognised by the Jordanian Ministry of Higher Education, according to students from the Ministry of



Production of artificial limbs at the National Training Centre for Orthopaedic Technologists

Health as well as the Royal Medical Services at the centre.

"I have had a degree for the last three years, and now I teach at the centre," said a student. "But my degree is not recognised by the Ministry of Higher Education. Quite simply, I do not know what my degree means. Most of us here feel neglected."

Another officer/student from the Royal Medical Services said: "I have a masters degree from West Germany in the field orthopaedic techniques, but it is only considered here as equivalent to tawjhi."

Several other students pointed out that they undergo 152 hours of training, at least 30 hours more than university students. "Despite this, we are refused recognition," one of them said.

The absence of recognition

of their educational qualifications means scaled down salaries and related benefits, in addition to the "vast" difference in remunerations between Ministry of Health students and their counterparts from the Royal Medical Services, which is part of the Armed Forces.

"We study the same techniques and theory," he said. "But, our salaries and benefits are different. This of course causes some problems."

Another problem, this time on the social level, is the acute shortage of female trainees. Officials at the centre pointed out that many disabled women prefer to deal with experts from their own sex while discussing "matters related to anatomy."

"We need more females to enrol in the programme," said Franke.

China grapples with worsening heroin problem

By William Kazer Reuter

KUNMING, China — In a dimly-lit coffee shop in this southwest Chinese city, prostitutes puff on heroin-laced cigarettes, inviting their customers to join them.

At a dance hall nearby, a 17-year-old confides she is a heroin addict, schooled in her habit by her pimp. In a crumbling alleyway across town, a nervous small-time dealer says six of his friends were arrested for using narcotics recently and he is now lying low.

China was nearly drug-free by the early 1950s after the Communists took tough measures to stamp out opium growing and cope with an estimated 20 million addicts when they came to power in 1949.

But narcotics are making a comeback, partly because tight social controls have eased since economic reforms began in 1978. Nowhere is that more evident than in Kunming.

"Drug activities have emerged again and they are affecting our health as well as our economic development," said Chen Cunyi, deputy director of Yunnan province's anti-drug force.

For a single dangerous trip,

a "mule" who carries the drugs across the border can make as much as 20,000 yuan (\$4,200) — about 20 times the average annual income.

"These people are being paid to risk their lives," said a businessman familiar with the trade.

From the border, the drugs move by road to Kunming. Police road blocks line the route and officers routinely check identities of bus passengers and select baggage for inspection.

"On one bus trip from Ruili, the man sitting next to me was arrested," the businessman said. "Police found

Heroin is cheap by Western standards but costly for most Chinese at (\$10.50) a grain (one ounce) — half a month's salary for an average worker. That leads to other social problems, such as theft, mirroring a pattern found in the West.

Most of the opium growing and heroin refining operations are on the Burmese side of the border, Chinese officials said. But Western diplomats said chemicals used in refining, such as acetic anhydride, may come from China.

Narcotics are moved into China through Wanding and Ruili, two towns along the Burmese border, carried by residents who are allowed to move back and forth between the two countries with relative ease.

Drugs are also moved across mountain trails along the border — far from the control of any government — or hidden in truck tyres or in big shipments of goods such as timber.

"Drug activities have emerged again and they are affecting our health as well as our economic development," said Chen Cunyi, deputy director of Yunnan province's anti-drug force.

Yunnan is on the fringes of the infamous Golden Triangle, one of the world's main opium producing centres. Kunming, the provincial capital, is a transit centre for illegal drugs bound for Hong Kong and the West.

Even more alarming to local officials, Yunnan is becoming a place for drug use. While the extent of its problem pales beside that of the industrialised world, it is wor-

ries that are no official statistics on the number of drug addicts in China, but in Yunnan alone the number is at least in the thousands.

"Not long ago we had no heroin use but in the last few years this became a serious problem," Chen said.

Chinese police seized nearly 293 kilograms of heroin last year — more than double the amount in 1988.

Courts sentenced 69 people to death for drug trafficking in Yunnan last year and many more were jailed. A poster on a Kunming street announces the execution late last month of one man caught with 1.7 kilograms of heroin.

Although in Kunming heroin is smoked, many users along the border are injecting drugs. Sharing needles has led to another threat — AIDS.

In Ruili, with a population of 80,000, tests on 1,000 drug users found 146 AIDS carriers although none had contracted the disease itself.

China is being forced to spend more time and money on fighting drugs. It has formed a 1,300-man task force to combat drugs in Yunnan alone and is training customs officials in detection.

New regulations, effective this year, allow local authorities to set up treatment centres, and police can force drug users to accept treatment.

Police, however, maintain their Socialist system gives their special immunity from some of the darker aspects of narcotics, insisting there is no official involvement in the trade.

"We have a different social system than the West," said Chen. "Because of our Socialist system, we don't have corrupt police."

"There are many more of them," said a nurse. "Among those who turn drugs are relatively wealthy private businessmen as well as unemployed and disaffected youths, health officials said.



Trying out an artificial leg

EUROPEAN COMMUNITY PROBES DISTURBING ASPECTS OF SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE

The author of this article, JOHANNES REITTER, is professor of moral theology and social ethics at Mainz University.

THE SECOND draft European Community programme on predictive medicine was tabled last November. In a mid-December "common viewpoint" the Council of Ministers advised member-governments to implement it.

Surprisingly, the new draft has so far gone unnoticed by both politicians and the general public.

Genetic engineering, which is what it involves, is evidently less important than reproductive medicine for the churches too.

In July 1988 the European Community drew up a predictive medicine programme that was to cost 15 million ECUs, or about DM 30 million. It was given its first reading by the European Parliament in February 1989.

The draft was rejected by all political parties in the Federal Republic on account of serious ethical and legal misgivings, especially in respect of the uses to which it results might be put.

What is predictive medicine? Certain illnesses are programmed in a person's genes, and more complaints than hitherto assumed result from correlation between the genes and the environment.

These two facts have led, within the wider purview of genetic engineering, to the emergence of predictive medicine.

It aims at forecasting a patient's future medical record and his genetic likelihood of suffering from specific complaints.

This early warning system will hopefully enable doctors to prevent the outbreak of an illness or at least to exert a positive influence on its progress.

A further aim of predictive medicine is to prevent the

transmission of genetically induced diseases.

It involves analysing the human genome, or set of chromosomes, and compiling an individual genetic chart depicting the chemical components of individual genes in sequence.

This is said to be the only way in which genetic defects that are to blame for certain complaints can be identified.

What, then, about the second European Community draft? On closer scrutiny it is found to be no less problematic from the ethical viewpoint than its predecessor, the term "predictive medicine" merely having been removed from its title.

Thirty-eight detailed changes have been made to the original programme, but basically it remains unchanged, so much so that the impression created is one of a misleading change of label.

Genome analysis and the compiling of a genetic chart may now be given pride of place, rather than predictive medicine, but the change is more apparent than real.

Genome analysis and genetic charts are the prerequisites for predictive medicine, which remains the programme's stated long-term objective.

The memorandum proposes ethical, social and legal analysis and discussion of the programme while it is in progress. That is surely a little late in the day.

Analysis and discussion along these lines must be undertaken beforehand, and not during or on completion of the programme.

Fast and furious international competition is currently aimed at mapping and sequencing the human genome.

The ethical assessment of predictive medicine is closely

associated with evaluation of the risks and opportunities it involves.

First, the opportunities. Genome analysis as a prerequisite for predictive medicine will certainly extend our knowledge about mankind.

It is basic research and as such will be of significance over and above its practical uses in predictive medicine.

Comparison of different creatures will hopefully reveal more about the course of evolution. But even as basic research genome analysis is not ethically neutral, the uses to which it might be put must constantly be borne in mind.

Five German groups are associated with this project, but there is relatively little other research activity in this sector in the Federal Republic of Germany.

Complaints that are attributable to interaction be-

tween genes and the environment might, for instance, could lead to a genetic test and counselling before pregnancy that are no different, in principle, from conventional family planning advice.

If a genetic risk were found to exist the consequences would need to be clarified with the person or persons concerned in each and every case. Pregnancy might have to be ruled out.

The risks are another matter, especially where a complaint is predicted for which no treatment or cure is yet available.

In such cases a genetically unsatisfactory diagnosis would pose serious problems for both the doctor and his patient.

Is there no such thing as the right to a secret — a secret from others and from oneself? What is more in keeping with human dignity: to know or not to know that you are about to suffer from an incurable disease?

Social acceptance of illness and disability could well, sad to say, decline still further in the wake of predictive medicine. Illness and disability could be prevented.

Abortions are already carried out as a result of antenatal checks. A sick or disabled child is not accepted, and ethically speaking, that is a most disturbing development, one that cannot simply be accepted.

The risk of illness could certainly be reduced. Sport and a suitable diet could reduce the risk of cardiac and circulatory complaints; avoiding a suntan could reduce the risk of skin cancer.

There would at the very least be an opportunity of alleviating the course of illnesses caused wholly or in part by genetic factors.

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The cause of a complaint would be transferred to the individual and come to be regarded as personal, individual destiny.

Other factors, such as an environment that makes people ill, would tend to be neglected. The patient would be

associated with evaluation of the risks and opportunities it involves.

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There would at the very

Couriers — modern Hermes or 'time vs. time-sensitive'

By Idris Wahbe
Jordan Times staff writer

AMMAN — Remember "1001 nights" with the benevolent giant genies who move people and things with the speed of thought? "Or Aladdin's lamp? You wish it, you get it."

Well, it is somewhere along these lines that express courier services have sprung up. But the marked difference is that the average person in the street knows very little about the system, and most of those who use it are too busy to figure out how it works.

It is common these days in Amman streets to see dozens of small cars bearing the signs "DHL" or "TNT/Skypak" or "Aramex." What do they stand for, and what do they do?

Quite simply, if you have an urgent document in original or material (barring certain categories) to be rushed to New York, then it is time to contact one of the international courier. It's something like the good old pony express; the man collects the mail from your doorstep and delivers it to its destination by hand.

But, instead of ponies, today's couriers use high-speed aircraft.

In the case of TNT, the idea of an express courier system can be traced back to the initiative of an enterprising Australian who in 1946 was delivering newspapers on domestic level. The operation must have been worthwhile as the basis for Thomas Nationwide Transportation (TNT) was set.

In case of DHL, the international air express industry was started 20 years by three men: Dalsey (D), Hillstrom (H) and Lynn (L). They saw the advantage of cargo manifests arriving in port before the ships, resulting in speedier cargo clearance and reduced costs so, gradually expanding, DHL became the first company to offer a comprehensive, door-to-door service.

From this initial impetus grew the global industry of international express delivery of time-sensitive documents and small packages," the officials at DHL say.

An alternative to the TNT and DHL is the Arab-Aramex, which describes Jordan as its jumping board.

Established only seven years ago, Aramex claims it has proved itself a "valid" competitor in the delivery network in the Mideast and the Arab World.

Speed and reliability

The key characteristics of an international air express service, according to the companies as well as their clientele, are a worldwide service combined with speed, security and reliability of delivery since information has become more time critical and more valuable in a society fast transforming itself into service-oriented.

As the internationalisation of world markets increased, so did thinking in terms of global strategies to exploit the full potential of world trade and services. As a result, communication became crucial, and there the express couriers stepped in to fill the gap.

services. As a result, communication became crucial, and there the express couriers stepped in to fill the gap. All these changes created an environment propitious for the development of the international air express sector. And indeed it boomed.

According to Cameron Grant, general manager for Amman DHL office, the company now owns 110 aircraft, making it the 16th largest airline in the world. Four of the planes operate in the Middle East. The company has 900 offices in over 190 countries and 20,000 employees worldwide; it makes use of helicopters, cars, trucks, even motorcycles for delivery.

"One crucial question is: How long does it take a letter handed over to a courier in Amman to reach its destination?"

It depends on the region. As Grant put it: "DHL focuses heavily on staffing its offices with DHL staff; that is, we are concentrating on the ratio of owner-operated outlets as opposed to having agents-operated outlets. This gives DHL more control over the customers' shipments and helps us focus on global stan-

Armen services over 30 cities and communities in the Middle and Near East, with its own offices and stations in all Arab countries. Jordan is Aramex's head office and "jumping board to the area."

According to Ghandour: "The Middle East is some years behind in the express industry and it cannot be made into an easy market either politically or economically. We have to continue to grow on our own inertia and, possibly, in cooperation with the four or five big express boys who want to dominate the world today. But we have built a considerable network and we have the determination to become the number one in the Middle East."

A big accomplishment for the company was the conclusion of an agreement with Federal Express, a U.S. company, to handle Fed-Ex consignments in the Middle East. "Winning this business was the jewel in Aramex crown. To us Fed-Ex is finally the stamp of approval," according to Ghandour.

Things in the Middle East'

How things work in the Mid-

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where in the range of JD32 to 38 per half a kilogramme. Not little, the advantages include speedy, door-to-door delivery, and customs facilities (fast clearance), to mention the obvious ones. More subtle advantages are felt by banks (for whom a pre-noon delivery means a full-day interest added) or less developed countries which are enabled to enter a new country or market with limited investments by using express service to deliver samples for sales personnel and then the goods ordered by the customer.

The early major users of air express services were banks and finance houses where delay in delivery of cheques and promissory notes entailed considerable financial loss. But with the growth of air express industry, it seems customers started making more systematic use (as opposed to emergency) of this speedy service.

Is it enough to send the parcels and cash the money?

"Door-to-door (person to person) delivery is very important and consistent checks are made to see the consignment in progress — for the client's peace of mind," DHL official said.

Technology, technology

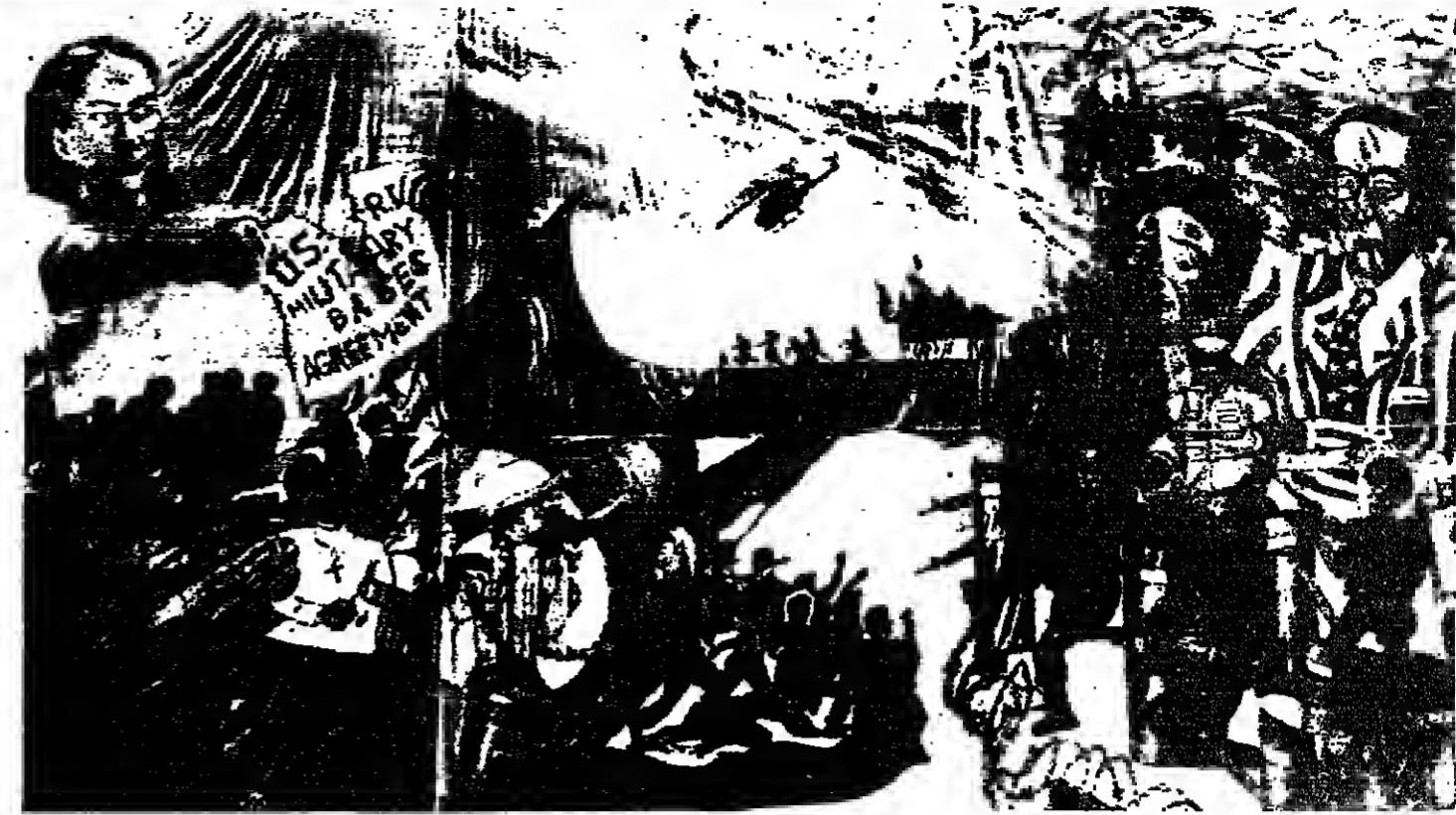
Skypak receives daily computer sheets from the centre (Bahrain). DHL, on the other hand, boasts a unique Lasernet computer confirmation system whose wonder-wand-like works were fully demonstrated by Grant.

The microcomputer, the size of a hand gun, builds up a complete record of the shipper's progress, from time of pick-up to name of signatory at final delivery. Airbill number, destination, actual location in transit, pick-up and delivery time are all given at the touch of a button. The microcomputer works to make it simpler to understand, somehow like the device that registers the prices on products at a store. You actually see the laser beam travelling across the airbill code-bars. It stores the data and when nested in the main computer (in a niche specially designed to it) a simple "play" on the keyboard will display everything you need to know about the consignment. Ingenious and simple at first sight, but it is actually high-tech, satellite coordination, qualified staff and a significant amount of money invested.

As for staff, all three companies seem to attach great importance to having the best. They are continually trained, appraised, given incentives. What Ghandour said, could, on a wider scale, be applied to the others as well:

"...Management trainee programme selects (Jordanian) university graduates, trains them for months off and on-the-job in various departments, then posts them in outstations abroad with full responsibility to function and produce creatively."

The cost also differs by destination. Some "snooping" showed that the cost was some-



With posters and demonstrations, opponents of the U.S. bases in the Philippines have mounted a strident campaign as negotiations on the future of the bases progress (WNL)

Filipino emotions take over as talks begin over bases

MANILA (WNL) — "The world is unthinged. Everything has changed, all the old signposts are gone," says the compact, animated woman as she takes a break from a seemingly endless evening session of the Filipino Senate.

"I mean, who is the threat now?" she asks. "China? Japan? I think we have to talk to them. The era of confrontation is over." Leticia Ramos Shahani — head of the Philippine Senate Foreign Relations Committee, doctor of comparative literature, former ambassador and United Nations official, sister of Defence Secretary Fidel V. Ramos — thinks there's no longer any reason to have U.S. military bases on Philippine soil. Siding with her is a majority of the 23-member Senate.

Shahani scoffs at those who believe that Filipino politicians, in their vocal opposition to the continuation of the base agreement, are merely bluffing in order to get more money. "We're not talking in terms of compensation," she says. "Sovereignty is the overriding issue. Although we are poor, we won't collapse when the bases leave. We will suffer maybe, but we won't disappear under the sea."

With negotiations under way on what will happen after the current \$481 million a year lease agreement expires, it seems that emotions are speaking louder than fact in Filipino political circles. After asking for yearly payments of \$2 billion a year as rent for two bases — Clark Air Base and Subic Naval Base — home to about 18,000 U.S. servicemen, most local politicians are now seeing the bases as the superfluous symbol of an unequal "special relationship" between Washington and Manila.

While other countries in Southeast Asia view the presence of U.S. military facilities here as a regional security issue, to many Filipinos — from peasants to coup-plotters to mainstream politicians — it has always been tied up with wrenching questions about national identity. And while the financial, strategic and social impact of the bases still inspires heated debate — the bases produce 5 per cent of the country's gross national product and are the largest employer after the government — discussions of the issue almost always boil down to the word "sovereignty."

"Unfortunately, what the Americans don't understand is that their presence here is overwhelming," Shahani, a moderate member of President Corazon Aquino's ruling coalition, says. She adds that the removal of the bases might be just the challenge her country needs. The Philippines, once one of Asia's richest countries, has failed to develop significantly since the 1950s, in spite of billions of dollars in aid from the United States and other donors.

Besides the Philippines, the U.S. military presence in East Asia and the Pacific consists of about 50,000 troops in Japan and 43,000 in South Korea. After a recent trip to Asia, U.S. Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney announced that both countries had agreed to a 10 per cent cut in troops stationed there. Also, Tokyo will increase its share of the \$7.5 billion cost of maintaining U.S. forces in Japan to more than 40 per cent.

U.S. troops will also be cut in Western Europe, and at home, Congress is debating the closing of about 120 military bases within the U.S.

The prospect of seeing a much-reduced U.S. military presence in the Pacific is disquieting for newly prosperous Asian nations.

While the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) has made no formal statement on the Philippines bases, individual countries have indicated their desire to see a strong U.S. profile in the region. Reasons range from a fear of Chinese and North Korean military expansion to a concern that Japan's economic dominance may extend into the military vacuum left by an American departure.

For Senator Shahani, Philipino concerns should come before regional concerns, although she acknowledges that there are important security issues to confront. "We have to talk about an international convention to guard our sea lanes, if that's what the stronger powers are afraid of."

While most observers acknowledge that the average Filipino still favours the retention of the bases. Senator Shahani counters that people are simply uninformed. A common argument put forward by opponents of the bases is that, since the upbeal in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union's belt tightening because of severe economic problems, there is no longer any real threat to the regional security in Asia.

Another factor is that educated urban Filipinos have long felt ambivalent about their close ties to the U.S. Proud of their ability to adapt to Western ways, they have had little success from which to draw inspiration at home.

Their own efforts stifled by poverty and corruption, they have watched other Asian countries pass them by on the road to economic success.

"We Filipinos, have a right to think for ourselves. We have a right to be global, to be universal. America is so far away!" exclaims Shahani.

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Economy

Oil ministers begin emergency talks to try to mop up glut

OPEC tries to cut output, raise prices

GENEVA (R) — Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) oil ministers began emergency talks on Wednesday voicing hopes they could soon agree on production cuts to mop up a glut and raise prices.

The 13 members of OPEC agree on one thing: They are producing too much oil and this has flooded the market and cut prices by 25 per cent.

But now they must face the difficult decision of which member states should turn down the taps and by how much?

In informal soundings, the Algerian president of OPEC, Sadek Boussena, asked those countries which are exceeding their mandated quotas how much they would be prepared to contribute to a round of production cuts.

"There are many so many proposals but I think we will finish today or tomorrow," said the Iraqi minister, Issam Abd al-Rahim Al Chalabi.

The talks began formally in the absence of the minister of Iran, Gholamreza Aqazadeh, whose aircraft was delayed.

Aqazadeh in an earlier newspaper interview publicly blamed current price weakness on quota

busting by three Gulf Arab producers, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Saudi Arabia, the world's biggest oil exporter, was said by delegates to be upset at being singled out: it says its policy is simply to defend its traditional share of just under 25 per cent of whatever OPEC produces.

Cuts by other above-quota sellers, including Nigeria and Venezuela, could therefore be expected to bring an automatic decline in Saudi volume.

Iraq thinks OPEC output may have to be cut as low as 22 million barrels per day (BPD) from a recent peak around 24.

Delegates said the Saudis seemed flexible but may think that OPEC output in May and

June at between 22.5 and 23 million would be a reasonable goal.

A statement Tuesday by the Saudi minister, Hisham Nazer, that he favoured higher prices, helped add 27 cents to New York futures for the U.S. benchmark crude, west Texas intermediate crude (WTI), which closed Tuesday at \$16.81 per barrel.

Western industry sources said the Saudis, historic advocates of moderate oil prices, were not unhappy to see WTI drop in recent weeks from near \$24 in January.

But delegates said Saudi Arabia now wants a stable market and favours measures later this year to solve the problem of chronic quota-breaking by Kuwait and the UAE.

The basic of any Saudi-brokered deal in Geneva could be that Kuwait and the UAE consent to cut output now in return for an understanding that they will be allocated bigger quotas when OPEC meets again late in June to decide pricing and production policy for the second half of 1990, some delegates said.

The 35-minute opening plenary session of the talks adjourned and was to resume on Wednesday evening after more bilateral talks of the kind with which OPEC decisions are usually sorted out.

Under OPEC members Iraq and Iran, needing cash to rebuild after their Gulf war, and many debt-laden third world oil states in and outside OPEC are angry about the recent fall in prices. Egypt, not an OPEC member,



Hisham Nazer

is said by Middle East diplomats to have been furious at having to cut its prices by around \$2 in mid-April.

It is now gambling on a successful OPEC meeting and has already raised oil prices \$0.45 per barrel from May 1.

German monetary union details agreed

EAST BERLIN (R) — East and West Germany have reached a compromise on monetary union that would allow older East Germans to swap up to 6,000 marks (\$3,570) at par and younger people less, an East German spokesman said Wednesday.

Bonn had originally suggested an across-the-board swap of 4,000 marks (\$2,350) for all savings at one-to-one, with further amounts further amounts exchanged at two-to-one, when it introduced the powerful West German mark in East Germany July 2.

Announcing the agreement, East German government official Matthias Gehler also told reporters that West German tourists would be able to exchange money at two-to-one rather than the current rate of three-to-one.

The question of how much of their nearly worthless currency East Germans would be able to exchange at a favourable rate has dominated the debate about monetary union.

Their concern reflects fears that by printing marks for the conversion, West Germany will fuel inflation, Europe's lowest; and he forced to raise interest rates to defend the Deutsche mark in a move with repercussions across the continent.

Government sources said earlier that the deal would allow Bonn to offer an improved package, especially for older people who have saved for years to supplement their meagre pensions, while avoiding any extra costs for West Germany.

East Germany has been pressuring for a better deal ever since Bonn unveiled its offer to swap all wages, pensions and up to 4,000 marks savings at a one-to-one rate.

West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl has been eager to help his fellow Christian Democrats in the East German government as they approach local elections Sunday.

Several influential economic officials, including Finance Minister Theo Waigel and (central) Bundesbank head Karl Otto Pöhl, argued that Bonn's offer was already the furthest it could go without over-burdening the West German economy.

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S. African investors cautious as power-sharing talks begin

By Rory Channing
Reuters

JOHANNESBURG — South African investors, wary of blacks having a bigger say in running the economy, are taking a cautious attitude as white rulers meet black leaders this week for landmark talks on power sharing.

Nelson Mandela, deputy leader of the African National Congress (ANC), helped to dispel some of the jitters that have recently gripped the business community when, a week ago, he appeared to soften his commitment to nationalism.

"In a sense it's a very hopeful sign," said John Rogers, a partner with stockbrokers Edey, Rogers and Co. Inc.

"It is a signal that the ANC may be prepared to take a more flexible line," he added, echoing the views of other analysts.

Mandela's remarks, in which he said the ANC favoured nationalisation only if it strengthened the economy, helped share prices on the Johannesburg stock exchange to recover some of the sharp losses suffered in recent weeks.

The exchange's overall index, after falling to 2,976 on Wednesday last week — the same level at which it started 1990 — had recovered to 3,066 in morning trade a week later, before the start of the so-called "talks about talks" on power sharing to be held in Cape Town from Wednesday to Friday.

But this remained well below



F.W. de Klerk



Nelson Mandela

the year's peak of 3,392 on March 20.

On Tuesday the ANC said in a statement issued in Zimbabwe that it might re-nationalise state companies now being privatised in South Africa if it came to power.

The present climate contrasts with the euphoria which met sweeping political reforms made three months ago by President F.W. de Klerk, followed nine days later by Mandela's release.

Those events triggered strong buying of shares by both foreign and local investors hopeful that efforts to dismantle apartheid would promote greater internal stability and ease South Africa's international isolation.

The more sombre mood now reflects an acceptance that negotiations on any deal to give the five-to-one black majority full political rights could be arduous.

Also damaging to investor sentiment has been the slump in world prices for gold, fears until recently of an increase in local interest rates, and a slowdown in the economy.

The stock exchange index for gold shares stood at 1,711 in morning trade Wednesday, 20 points higher than at the time of Mandela's remarks on nationalisation a week previously.

But, because of a low world gold price and local political uncertainties, it remained far below the 2,049 at which it started 1990 and its peak this year of 2,250 on Feb. 2.

Mandela said April 25 the ANC would commission experts to study the nationalisation of mines, banks and monopolies, and if their findings did not encourage nationalisation, the movement would listen carefully to their advice.

He added that the organisation, the main movement fighting white minority rule, was not opposed to capitalism and sectors of the economy which were not nationalised would operate on a free-enterprise basis.

The respected business day newspaper Monday underlined dangers posed by the absence of a clear policy on an issue which analysis say has scared off foreign investors.

"The longer the threat of nationalisation is kept alive, the longer capital flight will continue and the longer investment in manufacturing and job creation will be put off," it said in an editorial.

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"The longer the threat of nationalisation is kept alive, the longer capital flight will continue and the longer investment in manufacturing and job creation will be put off," it said in an editorial.

It also called for durable and broad solutions to debt problems, environmentally-sound development policies, a reduction of military expenditures, an end to protectionism and a recognition by developed nations to consider the impact of their fiscal policies on the Third World.

And Washington dissociated itself from a reaffirmation of U.N. goals for industrial nations to contribute 0.7 per cent of their gross national product (GNP) to the Third World.

Low profile

Many positive references were made to the high-profile revolutions in Eastern Europe — with the proviso that their needs should not "detract from the high priority placed on international development cooperation with the developing countries."

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The new rate against the dollar was 8.85 dirhams compared to 8.04 dirhams April 25, when banks closed for six days because of public holidays. That represents a devaluation of about 9.15 per cent.

The French franc was now worth 1.57 dirhams against 1.41, and the pound sterling 14.53 dirhams against 13.14.

The devaluation was not publicly announced by the finance ministry. Commercial banks were informed of the new rates by Bank Al Maghrib in a telex message marked "very urgent."

The Moroccan authorities have been urged to devalue by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank as part of a financial re-adjustment programme.

The programme is designed to straighten out the country's finances currently burdened by a foreign debt estimated by the World Bank at \$22 billion.

Finance Minister Mohamed Berrada was expected to comment on the devaluation at a news conference later Wednesday.

Moroccan debt prices rose sharply on the secondary market for sovereign loans in response to the country's proposed rescheduling agreement last month with leading foreign bank creditors.

Morocco devalues dirham by 10 per cent

RABAT (R) — Morocco has devalued the dirham by an average of 10 per cent, the country's central bank, Bank Al Maghrib, told commercial banks Wednesday.

The new rate against the dollar was 8.85 dirhams compared to 8.04 dirhams April 25, when banks closed for six days because of public holidays. That represents a devaluation of about 9.15 per cent.

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LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

Wednesday, May 2, 1990
Central Bank official rates

Buy Sell Japanese yen (for 100) 422.3 424.8

U.S. dollar 669.0 673.0 Dutch guilder 353.3 355.4

Pound Sterling 1097.9 1104.5 Swedish crown 109.6 110.3

Deutschmark 397.4 399.8 Italian lire 54.3 54.6

Swiss franc 438.7 461.5 Belgian franc (for 10) 192.7 193.9

French franc 118.5 119.2

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

TOKYO — Stocks ended higher, with the benchmark index closing above 30,000 for the first time since April 20, on the last day of trading before a four-day weekend. The Nikkei closed at 30,173.64, up 483.81 points.

SYDNEY — The Market closed sharply higher on buying from offshore investors and local bargain hunters. The All Ordinaries Index soared 22.3 points, or 1.5 per cent, to end, at 1,462.9.

KONG KONG — Shares ended firmer as bargain hunters returned to the market. The Hang Seng Index rose 8.52 to 1,942.43.

SINGAPORE — Prices ended mixed in lethargic trading as bargain hunting towards the close paled early losses. The Straits Times Industrial Index shed 0.22 point to end, at 1,458.16.

BOMBAY — The Bombay stock exchange index touched 800.01 in early trade then fell to 786.21, down 8.92 points on the day. "The market is fickle-fickle," a broker commented. "There's always nervousness when the index touches 800."

FRANKFURT — Foreign investors returned after three weeks of declining prices. The Dax Index rose 30.16 in thin trade to close at 1,843.41.

ZURICH — Interest concentrated on special situations. The All-Share Swiss Performance Index closed 4.9 points firmer at 1,048.9.

PARIS — Blue chips led the market upwards but trade remained light. The CAC-40 index gained 19.57 points to 2,066.03.

LONDON — Wall Street's firmer start helped the FTSE index gain 19.7 to 2,137.6.

NEW YORK — Blue chips shrugged off negative economic news. At 1711 GMT the Dow Jones industrials were up 11.94 to 2,680.86.

THE Daily Crossword

by George Urquhart

ACROSS

1 Spotted cavy
5 Phase
14 Lab substance
15 Delicate
16 Marcella
17 King of Crete
20 Pipe joint
21 Lugs
22 Baby's walk
23 Red in the public eye
25 Narcolepsy
27 Fighting
28 Mistakes
31 Moves with little effort
33 Pin
34 Bakery item
37 Dispatching
38 Shakespeare's tragedy
41 45 inches
44 Unilateral in biology
45 Plasterboard need
47 Regions
48 Color word: abr.
51 Floor cover
53 Cotton print
55 Sale condition
56 Musical type
58 Open-circuited material
60 Deadlock
62 Racetracks
63 Work hard
64 Charles, pet
65 Set the alarm
66 Bows
67 Autocrat

7 Pencil ends
8 Picas
10 Word prefix
11 Wedding VIPs
12 Old school
13 Alternative
18 With a smile
22 Speckled and rainbow
24 Bridge seat
25 Woody's son
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27 Implants
28 Practice
32 — attention
34 — State
35 — Kentucky
36 — alarm, bone
37 Detox off
38 Actress
39 Lillies
40 Belge
43 Museum head
45 Grating
46 Inland work

47 Yesterday's Puzzle Solved

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Sports

JORDAN TIMES, THURSDAY-FRIDAY MAY 3-4, 1990

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Antwerp appeals against ban, fine

BRUSSELS (R) — Antwerp has appealed against a 15-month ban imposed by the European Football Union (UEFA) on midfielder Patrick Schrooten for drug taking. Antwerp Secretary-general Louis Woesten said the Belgian club had also appealed against a 50,000 Swiss franc (\$34,000) fine imposed on it over the Schrooten case. Urine samples taken from Schrooten after Antwerp's UEFA Cup quarter-final second leg match against Cologne in March showed the presence of amphetamine. "We will not just appeal against the fine but also against the ban of Schrooten, although we will not challenge that the urine tests were positive," Woesten told Reuters by telephone. He said Antwerp would base their case on the damage the loss of one of their key players for more than a year would cause. Schrooten, 27, denies he took drugs but has decided not to appeal personally. "The penalty can only get worse if I appeal. Moreover, it costs a lot of money to appeal and I would also have to pay my trip to Switzerland for the hearings," Schrooten was quoted by Belgian newspaper as saying.

Lazaroni to quit in July

RIO DE JANEIRO (AP) — Brazilian national soccer team coach Sebastiao Lazaroni says he will resign after the World Cup and return to coaching a club, possibly Fiorentina of the Italian league. "After the cup, I'm leaving the team," Lazaroni has said. "The exhaustion (of coaching a national team) is great and in July I will return to work with a club." Lazaroni has been frustrated recently by the refusal of some European and Brazilian teams of release their players for World Cup training and hopes to go to Florence. "God willing, I'll sign a deal," he said. Brazil faces Bulgaria in an exhibition game Saturday but Lazaroni said he would name a starting team Thursday. "First, I have to see what condition the players arrive in and then I'll start to use them," he said.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TAHAR HIRSCH

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ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♦K53 ♦76 ♦AQ1052 ♦K872
Partner opens the bidding with one heart. What do you respond?

A.—Don't count your singleton in partner's suit as 2 distributional points, which would merit a response at the two-level. The hand is a possible misfit; so you want to keep the bidding as low as possible. Bid one no trump. On a good day, partner will rebid in a minor.

Q.2—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:

♦K3 ♦A863 ♦A ♦K75
The bidding has proceeded: South: West: North: East:
Pass 1 ♦ Pass

What do you bid now?

A.—We are not among those who suppose that you should have four-card support to raise partner's one-level, or major-cut, response. However, your hand with all its prime cards and singleton is too good for a mere two spades. Bid two clubs, with the intention of raising spades at your next turn—if you get one—in show better-than-minimum support.

Q.3—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:

♦A632 ♦A5 ♦AQ10 ♦J652
Partner opens the bidding with one spade. What do you respond?

A.—If you play limit raises, this is the hand for three spades. If your jump raises are forcing, however, you have something of a problem. You have to respond two clubs now, then support spades at your next turn. How awkward!

Q.4—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

♦A54 ♦AKQ82 ♦Void ♦KJ75
Partner opens the bidding with one diamond. What do you respond?

A.—The fact that you are three-suited with a void in opener's suit makes your hand unsuitable for a jump shift—you might need all the room you can muster to describe your hand. Start with one heart. Partner's rebid will determine your next action.

SECRETARY WANTED FOR AN AMERICAN REGIONAL OFFICE

An American regional office in Amman is looking for a foreign executive secretary to work part-time.

Please send C.V. with recent photo to P.O. Box 35251, Jabal Amman.

NOTE: All applications will be dealt with in strict confidence.

RAINBOW Tel: 625155

Mel Gibson
Michelle Pfeiffer
in
TEQUILA
SUNRISE

Performances: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30

CONCORD Tel: 677420

Nabila Obeid in
THE DANCER & THE POLITICIAN
(Arabic)

Performances: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

Liverpool bitter banishes memories

LONDON (R) — As Liverpool celebrated their record 18th English league soccer title, manager Kenny Dalglish finally banished the bitter memories of last season.

And, in a more serious vein, he allowed himself the luxury of contemplating what next season might bring.

"It's a better feeling than last year," the normally taciturn Dalglish joked after his team had clinched the title by beating the Queen's Park Rangers 2-1 at Anfield Saturday.

Last season, Dalglish was forced to watch in dismay as his team banded away the title to Arsenal on goal difference in the final minutes of the last match of the season.

The year's win — beating their own record — was their seventh championship in the last 10 years and inevitably prompted Dalglish to think of a possible return to Norwich.

"At least we have got the opportunity," the former Anfield star said. "We have qualified. We have just got to let the administrators decide what is best for football."

"We have qualified for the European Cup as champions... and we deserve to be champions of England," he said.

English clubs were banned from competing in Europe after 39 fans, mostly Italians, died at the European Cup final in Brussels' Heysel Stadium in 1985.

Liverpool, who were playing Juventus of Italy, were given an

extra three-year ban.

But newly-elected UEFA President Lennart Johansson said last week he was optimistic the ban could be lifted for next season and indicated that Liverpool could be included.

Dalglish also confessed he had been a little premature in celebrating his team's much-awaited victory.

After sending his players out for a lap of honour, he discovered he had inadvertently jumped the gun and second-placed Aston Villa were still in action against Norwich.

"We were told it had finished," he said.

Liverpool knew the championship was theirs if Villa, who started the day two points behind and had one match remaining after Saturday, failed to win at home to Norwich.

"When we got into the dressing room we realised there were still a few minutes to go. It could have been a little embarrassing," said Swedish international defender Glenn Hysen.

In the end the slip proved to be merely an act of foresight as Villa self-destructed 11 minutes from the end.

After falling behind to an early Norwich goal, Villa went 3-1 up in an amazing six minute second-half spree that seemed certain to defer the title issue until next week.

But then they tossed their slender hopes away with an own-goal in the 79th minute and finally drew a demoralising 3-3 after Norwich equalised with seven minutes left.

The score left Liverpool, who clinched their match with a second-half penalty from England winger and player of the year John Barnes, an unassailable four points ahead.

Argentina, Austria test Talents today

VIENNA (R) — Holders Argentina begin their World Cup countdown in earnest with a soccer friendly against Austria Thursday, and all eyes on a resurgent Diego Maradona.

With just over one month to go before Argentina open in Italy on June 8, Thursday's match in Vienna will be coach Carlos Bilardo's first chance in five months to field an authentic squad from players scattered across Europe.

The Irishman has won virtually every major race in Europe, but the 1,000 Guineas, the first classic of the flat racing season, has always eluded him.

The grey filly Negligent, trained by Barry Hills, can remedy that despite stiff opposition in the one mile (1.6 kilometre) event.

Hills is bidding to repeat his feat of 1978 when he sent out 35-1 outsider Easstone Spark to win without the benefit of a previous outing that season.

This time his claims are much stronger. Negligent was winter favourite for the Guineas after her two-year-old exploits.

Training rumours prompted a drift in price to 6-1, but Negligent is said to have been working well at home recently and an exercise spin round Newbury racecourse two weeks ago has sharpened her up.

Negligent's classic potential is based on her victory in last year's Rockefell Stakes at Newmarket, a race which produced the 1989 1,000 Guineas winner Musical Bliss.

She slammed a good field, drawing away from her rivals to beat Fearless Revival by five lengths.

The clear danger is the 11-8 favourite Salsabil, trained by John Dunlop and ridden by veteran Willie Carson.

Salsabil sprang a minor surprise in France last October to win a top two-year-old race, the Prix Marcel Boussac. On her reappearance this year she was an easy six lengths winner of the Newbury Fred Darling Stakes, invariably a reliable classic guide.

Second favourite heart of joy (3-1) was a narrow winner of another classic trial, the Neil Gwyn Stakes, here last month.

Eddery poised for 1st 1000 Guineas success

Trainer Michael Stoute and jockey Walter Swinburn won last year's Guineas with Musical Bliss and a repeat is not out of the question.

The Neil Gwyn was a finish of

one, he was bucking and kicking and squealing. He really likes it down here. He can hear the crowds from the stall, he can hear the other horses. His ears were pricking up all day long."

If he was a human being, Thirty

Six Red would have grown up on

the streets of New York, like his

trainer, instead of among the white rail fences of Kentucky. He would be a real tough kid.

That's the way he races.

"He's a street fighter, and he's

going to give them all they can take," Zito said.

In the wood, for example,

Thirty Six Red took the lead from

Burns Hills going into the final

turn, lost it almost immediately,

then got it back in the upper

stretch. The two raced a head

apart to the finish line.

"People always wonder if his

last race didn't take too much out

of him," Zito said. "But that's

the way it always is with him. I

keep thinking about that, but he

just keeps coming."

Thirty Six Red and Arkansas

derby winner Silver Ending are

considered the two primary

threats to the two favourites,

Santa Anita derby winner Mister

Frisky and Blue Grass winner

Summer Squall.

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World News

Militants shown training in Pakistan

India rejects Pakistani proposal over Kashmir

NEW DELHI (R) — India said Wednesday it had rejected a Pakistani proposal that neutral observers investigate charges that Islamabad backs Muslim Kashmiris fighting New Delhi.

Foreign Minister Inder Kumar Gujral told parliament he had turned what he called "the vacantly propagandistic suggestion" by his Pakistani counterpart Sabahzada Yaqub Khan during talks in New York on April 25.

Indian charges, which Gujral repeated yet again, that Pakistan arms and trains the Kashmiri rebels have led to heated exchanges and fears of a fourth war between the two countries. Two of their three wars were over disputed Kashmir.

Gujral also repeated India's demand that "if Pakistan indeed sought peace and friendship, it must take tangible and credible measures to withdraw support to terrorism and desist from intervention in our internal affairs."

But, in a relatively mild statement, he did not repeat a warning issued Saturday that India would do anything necessary to prevent infiltration of rebels and arms into the Kashmir Valley from the one-third of the Himalayan region Islamabad rules.

Saturday's statement, which refused to rule out military action, made plain that India regarded Pakistani action to prevent such infiltration as the crucial test of its intent.

Gujral said Yaqub Khan had suggested the United Nations or another outside agency investigate India's charges that Pakistan armed and trained the rebels, whose campaign has cost more than 300 lives so far this year. "He should know that no international agency could effectively monitor clandestine assistance to terrorists," Gujral said.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Mandela to visit Britain in July

LONDON (R) — African National Congress (ANC) Deputy President Nelson Mandela will visit Britain on July 3 and 4 for talks with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, British officials said Wednesday. Mandela, freed by South Africa on Feb. 11 after 27 years in jail, was last in Britain two weeks ago to attend a rock concert in his honour but did not meet Thatcher, a strong opponent of sanctions against Pretoria. The officials said Mandela would also hold talks with Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd during his visit, which will follow an already scheduled meeting in Dublin with Irish Prime Minister Charles Haughey. Mandela has said he would appeal to Thatcher for tougher sanctions against apartheid when he meets her. Thatcher broke ranks with the European Community with a partial lifting of sanctions after Mandela's release.

Von Weizsaecker in Poland

WARSAW (AP) — West German President Richard von Weizsaecker arrived Wednesday for four days of talks as Poland seeks security guarantees from the two Germans before they unify. Weizsaecker, the first West German head of state to visit Poland, was greeted at Warsaw's airport by President Wojciech Jaruzelski, Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki and other dignitaries with whom he will hold discussions. The West German president will also visit the Nazi concentration camp at Treblinka, and Gdansk, the former free city of Danzig whose small Polish garrison was shelled by the German army at the outset of World War II. Von Weizsaecker's trip marks a new stage in the centuries of complex, and often bloody, relations between the neighbouring nations. West Germany is Poland's largest Western trading partner, and its support is critical to the success of the economic and political reforms undertaken by the new non-Communist government.

Lafontaine leaves hospital

COLOGNE, West Germany (R) — Oskar Lafontaine, the West German opposition's candidate for chancellor almost killed in an assassination attempt, left hospital Wednesday with doctors recommending that he give campaigning a rest. Leaders of the Social Democratic Party have said the 46-year-old Saar state premier, stabbed in the throat at a campaign rally last week, will return to the campaign trail to lead the drive to unseat Chancellor Helmut Kohl in December elections. But, in a report issued as Lafontaine left hospital cheered by about 150 well-wishers, doctors recommended convalescence "far away from any professional stress." As Lafontaine drove away from hospital, a scarf tucked inside his coat hid the wound that almost ended his life. The butcher's knife which doctor's assistant Adelheid Spreidel plunged into his neck just missed the carotid artery.

\$2m worth of jewelry stolen in H. Kong

HONG KONG (AP) — Four robbers, including a woman, held in a shop in downtown Hong Kong Wednesday and escaped with jewelry worth 15 million Hong Kong dollars (\$1.92 million), police reported. Police said the robbers posed as customers, and then two of the men pulled out guns and threatened the shop's three women employees. They grabbed a large number of diamond necklaces and bracelets before escaping on foot, police said.

30 killed in China mine blast

PEKING (AP) — Thirty miners were killed and another 11 injured in a mine explosion in China's northeastern province of Heilongjiang last month, according to a Heilongjiang radio broadcast. The disaster occurred on April 15 in the Taoshan Colliery, an operation under the state-run Qitaihe mining administration bureau, the radio said. The April 16, broadcast was reported by the British Broadcasting Corp. monitoring service and seen in Peking Wednesday. It said a power outage stopped the ventilation system and led to a buildup of gas that was ignited by equipment being used in the mine. Several thousand miners are estimated to die every year in Chinese mine disasters, but the national press rarely reports on mine accidents and casualty figures are seldom published.



Kaifu pledges \$197m to Bangladesh

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP) — Visiting Prime Minister Toshiaki Kaifu of Japan has pledged \$197 million in aid to Bangladesh, an official spokesman said.

"You must understand our problem," one said. "Lots of things go on but we have to be careful."

The day before, the JKLF's Muzaffarabad chief Raja Muzaffar Khan said he believed the Kashmiri militants were becoming strong enough to stand up to the Pakistan government.

"My present tour is aimed at bringing about even closer ties... between the nations of South Asia endeavouring as they are to develop and grow," Kaifu said in a speech at a banquet given in his honour.

Japan, the richest nation in Asia, is the top donor to Bangladesh, one of the world's poorest nations.

Tokyo has given Dhaka nearly \$4 billion in aid in the past 18 years, according to Bangladesh government statistics.

Shigeo Takenaka, the chief Japanese spokesman, said the fresh commitment include \$24 million exclusively for development of the energy sector.

A senior Bangladeshi official said Japan was likely to commit more aid. Foreign Secretary Mohammad Mohsin did not elaborate, but said that Japan had indicated that its aid will not be reduced.

Tokyo did not make a commitment when Bangladesh's Western donors, and Japan met in Paris last month. Others at the Paris meeting pledged a total of \$1.8 billion for the coming fiscal year.

Dhaka staged a spectacular reception for Kaifu with thousands of children dancing and singing "welcome Kaifu" on the streets. Six jet fighters of the Bangladesh Air Force escorted Kaifu's DC-10 after it left Indian air space.

India was the first stop on his week-long shuttle tour which will include Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Indonesia.

On Tuesday, Kaifu opened a highway bridge financed primarily by Japan across the Meghna River near Dhaka.

Sidoti's comments coincided

Hungarian parliament elects writer as interim president

BUDAPEST, Hungary (AP) — Hungary's New Democratic Parliament Wednesday chose as interim president a liberal writer jailed for six years after the anti-Soviet revolt of 1956, symbolising the country's break with its Communist past.

When the vote was announced after a secret ballot, Goenecz was elected with 339 of the 370 valid votes cast.

"I know that confidence cannot be returned, only lost," Goenecz said in a brief thank-you address to Hungary's first democratic parliament in more than 40 years.

Goenecz replaces Interim President Matyas Szuroes, a member of the Socialist Party that was formed after the old Communist Party dissolved. The Socialists ruled until they were defeated in free elections in March and April.

In another conciliatory gesture between all parties, Szuroes was elected one of three deputy speakers.

Historian Gyoergy Szabad, 66

and a founding member of the Forum, was elected Goenecz's chief deputy with 348 of 370 ballots cast.

Goenecz, a lawyer who entered politics after World War II as a member of the then-dominant Smallholders' Party, has headed the Hungarian Writers' Union since last December.

He spent six years in jail after the 1956 revolt in Hungary against Stalinism and rule from Moscow. He won a reprise on his life sentence in a general amnesty granted in 1963.

At a news conference before the vote, Forum leader Jozsef Antall said the two rival parties had agreed that parliament — and not the nation as a whole — would choose the country's final president.

COLUMN

Former beatle receives death threats

LONDON (R) — Former Beatle George Harrison has received death threats in letters sent to his British mansion, police said. One of the anonymous letters posted to the 120-room gothic manor west of London warned, "time you went," and another said, "goodbye George," the Daily Mirror newspaper reported. Police said they were taking the threats against the 47-year-old pop star seriously. The letters began arriving at the mansion a year ago but staff, knowing Harrison's worries about security since the murder in New York 10 years ago of Beatle John Lennon, burned them, the Daily Mirror said. In recent weeks five more letters turned up and police were called in. Harrison, part of the famous pop group that included Paul McCartney, Ringo Starr and Lennon, lives at the house with his wife Olivia and son Dhani.

Fara Fawcett rules out marriage

DENVER, Colorado (AP) — Farrah Fawcett has ruled out marriage. The actress said that men do not like her independence and that longtime love Ryan O'Neal is the only man so far who has accepted it. She said O'Neal still proposes marriage, even after 10 years, but it is not for her because marriage is purely a business contract. "It kills romance."

In 1977, she divorced actor Lee Majors and quit the television series Charlie's Angels. Majors was the silent type, she said in an interview Monday. "Lee didn't talk. He thought I should come home and make the dinner. And he didn't support me leaving the show," she said. At Charlie's Angels, she said, "the male producers kept parting me on the bed while I was complaining that the characters had no depth."

She has since starred in such acclaimed movies as "Extremities" and "The Banning Bed."

Franco's flagship to run down in flag

EL FERROL, Spain (AP) — The vessel that General Francisco Franco used as his yacht and flagship until his death in 1975 ran down its flag for the last time in the dictator's hometown, an official said. The 154-foot (46.9-metre) Azor was built for Franco in the Galician port in 1949. It was last used as a naval flagship in 1984 by King Juan Carlos, Franco's successor as head of state and the man who presided over the country's transition to democracy. Vice Admiral Rafael Marti accepted the ship's flag, and the local navy chaplain said a prayer for Franco's economic policies and to urge peace talks.

Only a few police were deployed in the area, and they did not interfere with the demonstrators. A representative of United Nations General Secretary Javier Perez de Cuellar was due to arrive in El Salvador Wednesday to act as a go-between in setting up an agenda and arranging other details for the peace talks to begin.

Two attempts to negotiate an end to the war that has claimed 72,000 lives ended in deadlock in 1984 and 1985. A series of direct talks that had started shortly after Cristiani was sworn in as president last July were broken off because of the guerrillas' November offensive.

Hours before the attack, an estimated 40,000 people attended a peaceful May Day rally outside the Roman Catholic Metropolitan Cathedral. The rally was held by seven labour unions to criticise Cristiani's economic policies and to urge peace talks.

Only a few police were deployed in the area, and they did not interfere with the demonstrators.

Trial to examine difference between mistress, prostitute

MILWAUKEE, Wisconsin (AP) — The difference between a mistress and a prostitute will be explored in the trial of a former playboy model accused with her twin sister of failing to pay taxes on \$1.1 million they received allegedly for sexual favours. The twins allegedly spent alternate nights with David Kritzik, an elderly businessman, for more than five years until June 1987, when he was attacked and beaten in his apartment by an unknown intruder. He died last year at age 39. The defense won a victory even before the trial of actress and model Lynda Bird, 35, got under way in federal court.

At a pretrial hearing, Judge Thomas Curran ruled inadmissible an affidavit that Kritzik had given a federal agent before he died. Ms. Harris is accused of accepting \$745,000 from Kritzik. Lawyer Leigh Ann Conley, who allegedly received \$496,000, is to go on trial in June. The government alleged the money was paid in exchange for sex. Ms. Harris' attorney, Dennis Conley, insisted Kritzik gave her the money out of affection. The two women, who have been separated since 1987, are twins.

The trial will examine the subtle legal differences between mistresses and prostitutes and in come and gifts, officials said.

Hundreds of political dissidents rounded up in Burma, Amnesty says

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) — Amnesty International Wednesday said that hundreds and possibly thousands of political dissidents had been rounded up in Burma ahead of the May 27 election, and that torture was widespread.

"The security forces have almost unrestricted authority to make arbitrary arrests, to detain opponents or suspected critics indiscriminately for months on end without either charging or trying them, and to interrogate them using torture," said Eric Sidoti, the organization's director of communications for Australia.

"We know that hundreds of people have been detained but we believe it could be thousands," Sidoti told the Associated Press.

"People are being given three years hard labour to life just for criticising the government or undermining the military."

Sidoti's comments coincided

with the simultaneous release around the world of Amnesty's report on human rights violations in Burma.

He said torture was now rife, whereas it had once been confined to areas of armed conflict.

"It is widespread, standard practice and not restricted to any particular military unit," Sidoti said.

Burma's military government seized power in a September 1988 coup.

Amnesty spokeswoman Alison Tait said accurate figures on the number of political prisoners and torture victims in Burma were not available.

Amnesty was not allowed into the country to check allegations but had to rely on accounts given by refugees fleeing to Thailand.

Torture could involve any one of 15 methods, including electric shocks, being forced to squat for long periods in the position of

riding a motorcycle, hanging by the feet from a ceiling fan and walking across broken glass.

Sidoti said some prisoners were tortured simply on suspicion of being opposed to the government.

Martial law restrictions prevent full freedom of speech, assembly and freedom from arrest for political activists.

The main Burmese opposition leader, National League for Democracy General Secretary Aung San Suu Kyi, has been under house arrest since July.

The daughter of Burma's independence leader, she was a leading figure in the 1988 uprising against 25 years of military rule which was crushed by the army.

Australian Foreign Minister Gareth Evans called on the Burmese government earlier this year to allow foreign observers to check on human rights during the course of the election.

U.S. urges China to cut off arms to Khmer Rouge

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States has said it had urged China to halt or at least scale down its military aid to Khmer Rouge guerrillas fighting the Hanoi-backed government in Cambodia as part of a comprehensive settlement.

"In our high-level contacts... we have discussed with China the need to control the Khmer Rouge in the context of a comprehensive settlement in Cambodia," the U.S. State Department said in a statement.

"We have asked the Chinese to terminate their military aid to the Khmer Rouge and have urged them at a minimum to reduce the level of such assistance," the department added.

The statement followed a published report that China, defying requests from the United States, recently sent large shipments of weapons to the Khmer Rouge.

The New York Times, quoting unidentified U.S. government officials, said the weapons included in tanks, rifles, rocket-propelled grenades, anti-aircraft machine guns, rocket launchers and heavy artillery.

A State Department spokesman said he was not immediately able to confirm or deny the reported new Chinese weapons shipments

to the Khmer Rouge.

Former Khmer Rouge Prime Minister Pol Pot, a Chinese ally, ruled Cambodia from 1975 until 1978 when Vietnam invaded after border skirmishes. More than a million Cambodians are believed to have died during his rule, and the United States and virtually every other country has opposed any Khmer Rouge return to power.

U.S. National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft and Deputy Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger, who made secret trips to Peking in July and December, had asked the Chinese to curtail

plays reluctant host to 20,000 boat people.

U.S. State Department spokeswoman Margaret Taitwiler said last month that Malaysia's "push-back" policy had resulted in the deaths of four Vietnamese boat people rejected to 6,067.

The latest reports bring to 123 the number of Vietnamese boats which have been turned away from Malaysia's east coast, the diplomatic sources said.

They said Malaysia appeared anxious that no consensus had been reached on the question of repatriation among first asylum and resettlement countries and Vietnam, who last met in

January.

"The trend (of pushing away from new arrivals) has increased since mid-February. Malaysia does not want to be left behind with people who do not qualify for resettlement," a diplomatic source said.

A United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees official said the UNHCR has conducted "all sorts of discussions with the Malaysian government on CPA" but declined to comment on the reported rejection of newly arrived boats.

The official said about 800 boat people who arrived in Malaysia after March 14, 1989, when countries in the region stopped accepting boat people automatically, had expressed interest.

He said those returning voluntarily, who had not been screened out as economic migrants, would be given \$30 a month for a year on arrival to help them re-establish themselves.

"The Malaysian government has not yet released the findings," the official said.

Malaysia reportedly still pushing boat people away

plays reluctant host to 20,000 boat people.

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